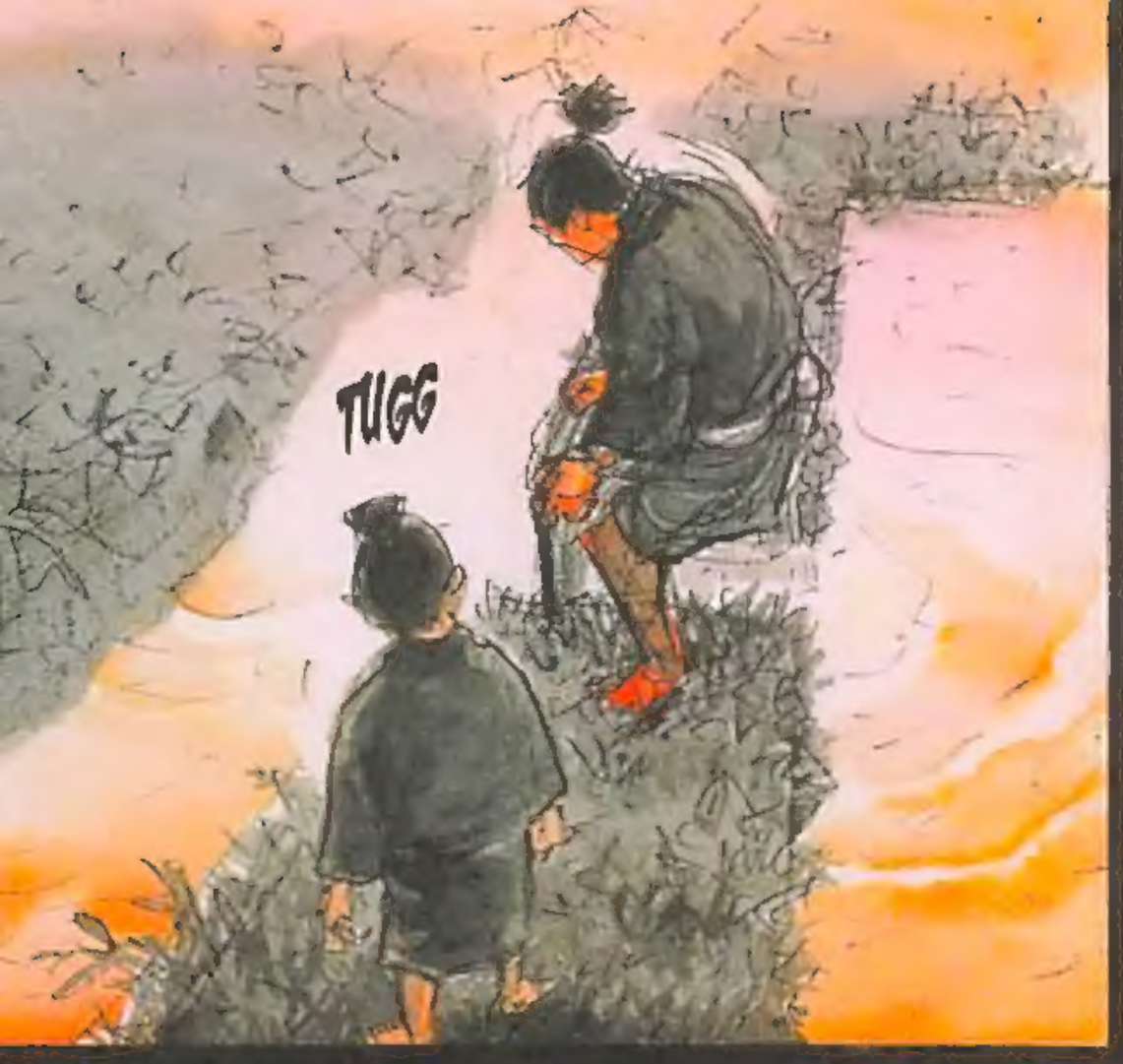
viz Signature


TUGG

ALL RIGHT.

PLEASE... LET THIS WORK.

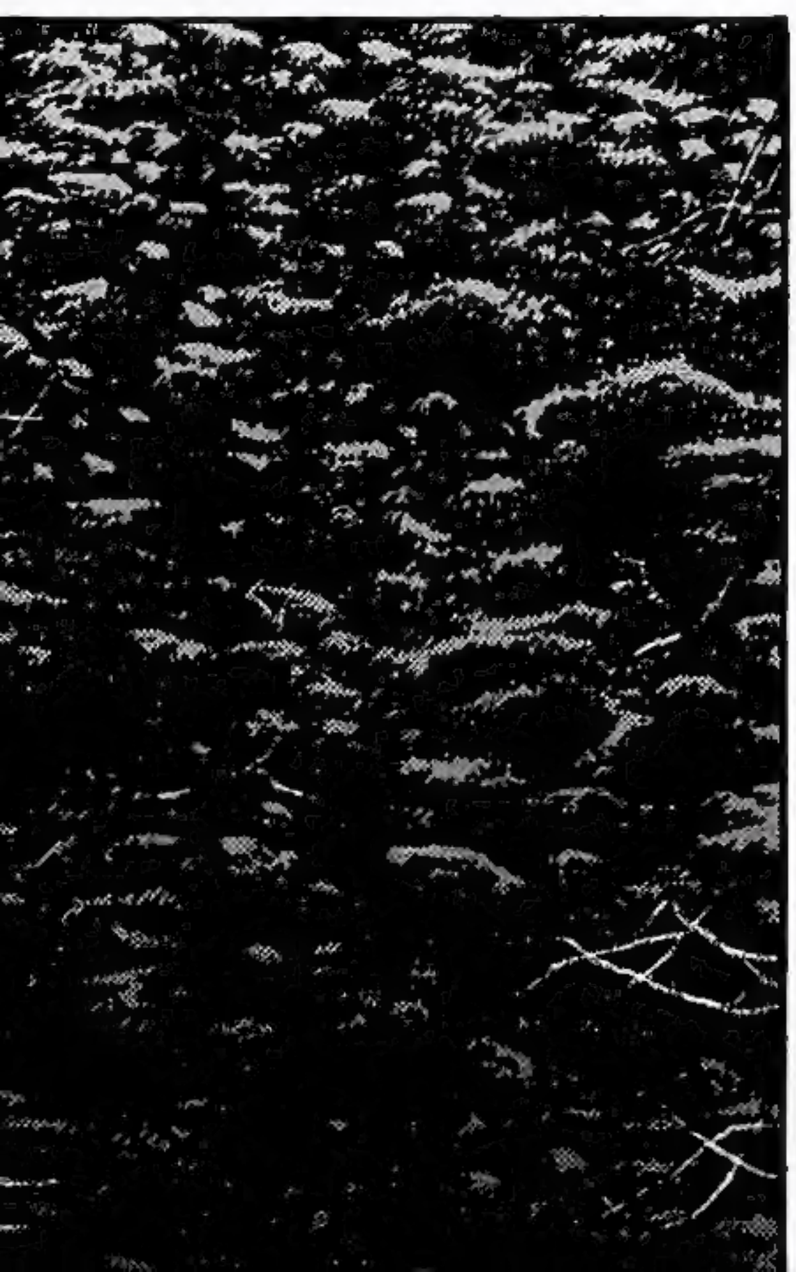
#310
Late
Autumn

PLICH PLICH
IT'S A LITTLE MOIST HERE THOUGH.
STOP HORSING AROUND.

NO GOOD.

I'M LEAV-ING.

WE CAN'T TURN THIS SOIL INTO A RICE FIELD.
SHŪSAKU WAS RIGHT.

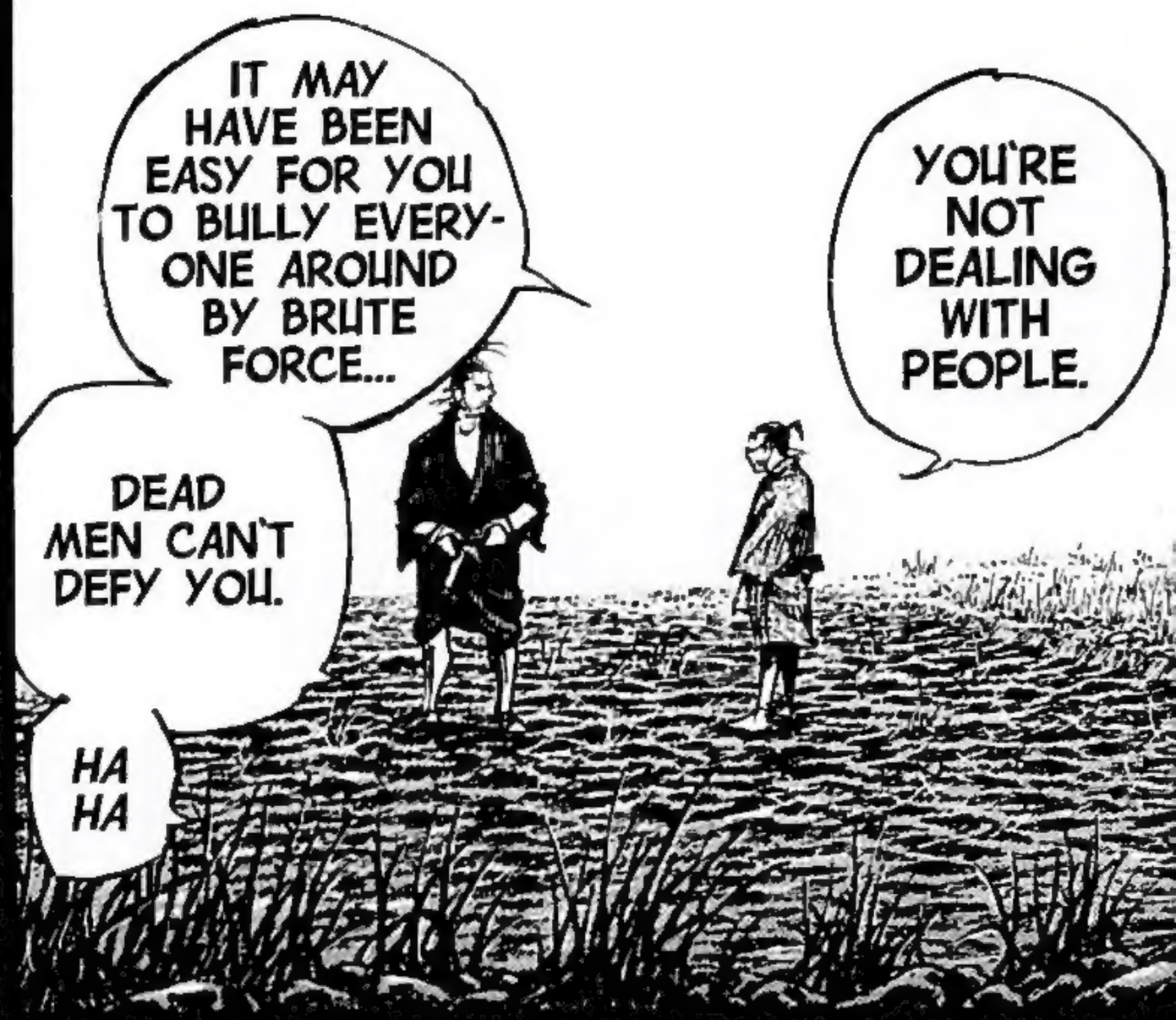


I'M HUNGRY ...

GULP GULP
GULP
GULP

YOU STUPID SAMURAI, YOU CAN'T PLOW A FARM ON YOUR OWN!
CAN'T YOU SEE?!

THE SOIL IS DIFFER-ENT.
YOU HAVE TO LISTEN TO IT.


IT MAY HAVE BEEN EASY FOR YOU TO BULLY EVERY-ONE AROUND BY BRUTE FORCE...
YOU'RE NOT DEALING WITH PEOPLE.
DEAD MEN CAN'T DEFY YOU.
HA HA

!!
MMPH
SHUV

THAT'S RIGHT.

...HAVE A TASTE.
IF YOU CAN'T HEAR IT...
OF THE SOIL?

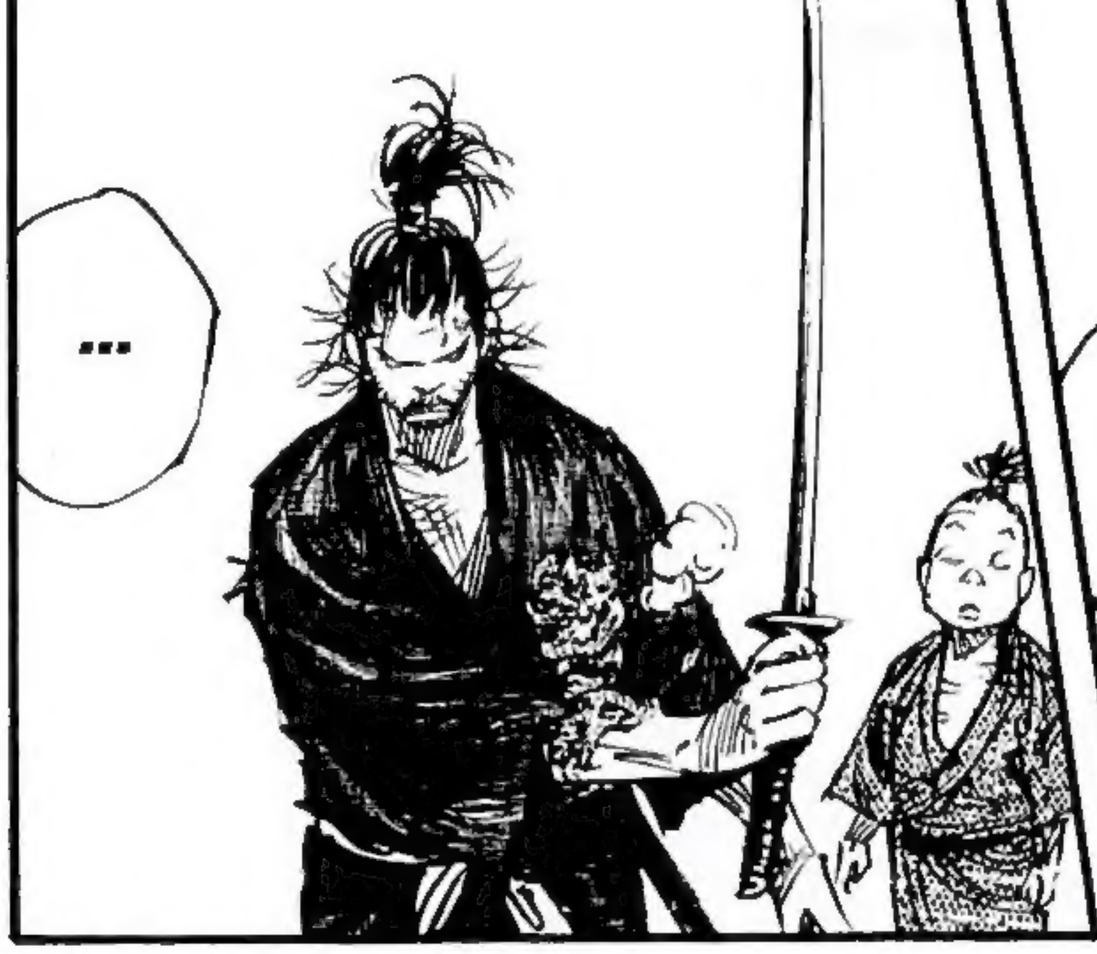
!

THAT'S WHAT YOUR SOIL TASTES LIKE.

PTU!
PTU PTU!
WHAT THE?! HAK!

BLEH
HAK HAK

SWISH


...

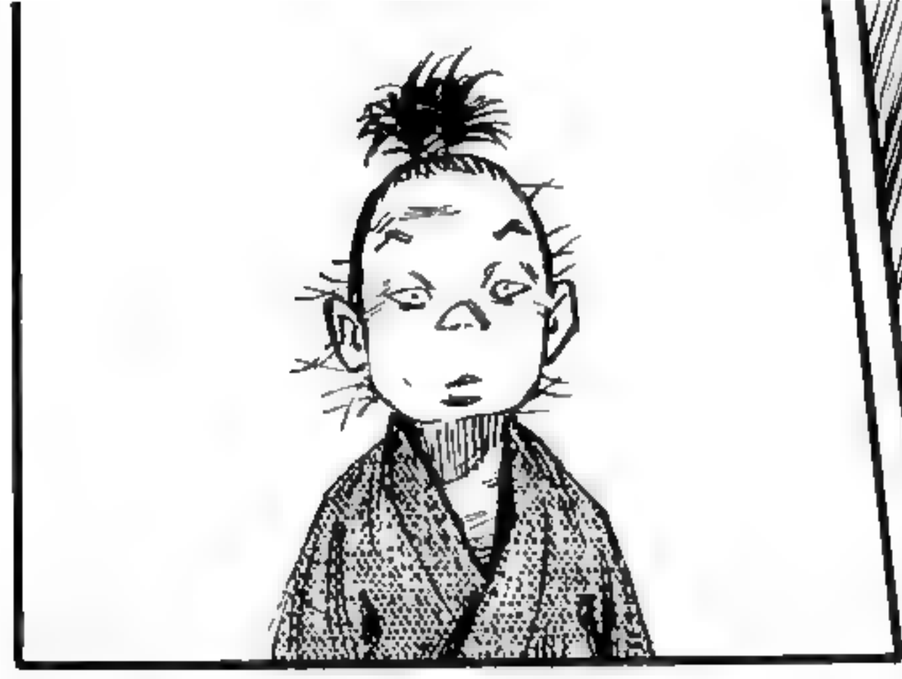
OW!
!

DARN IT. MY SPIRIT IS TOO WORKED UP.
HYUU
HYUU

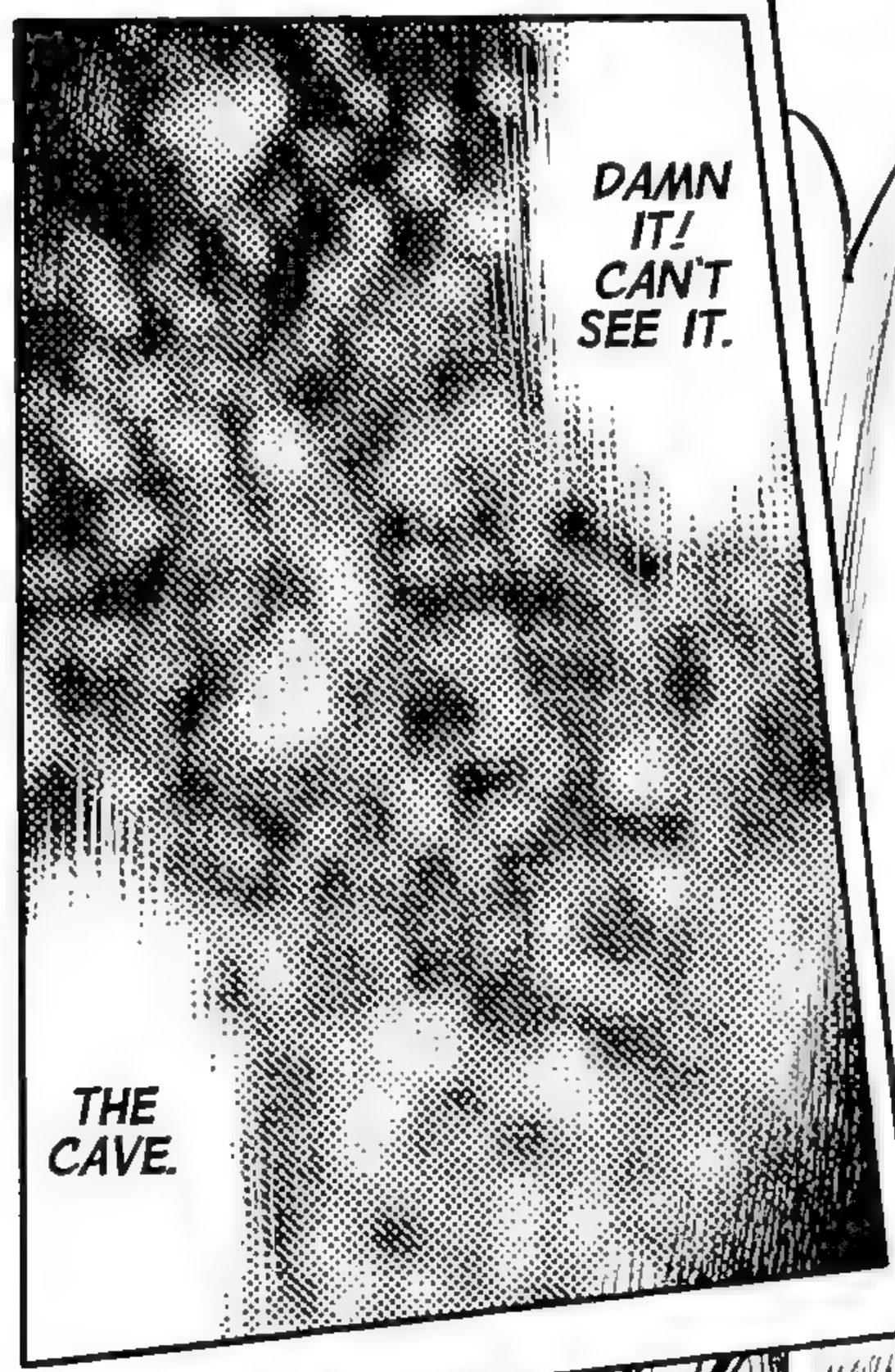
GO BACK...

SWING...
...THE SWORD.
CLEAR THE CLUTTER.

BACK TO THAT TIME...
DON'T UNDER-STAND FARM-ING.
WHY AM I FARMING?
I'M A SWORDS-MAN.
I SHOULD BE FIGHT-ING.
WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?
I'M MUSASHI.
DON'T MAKE ME DO WHAT I DON'T KNOW.
THE OLD MAN'S CAVE.
GRNCH



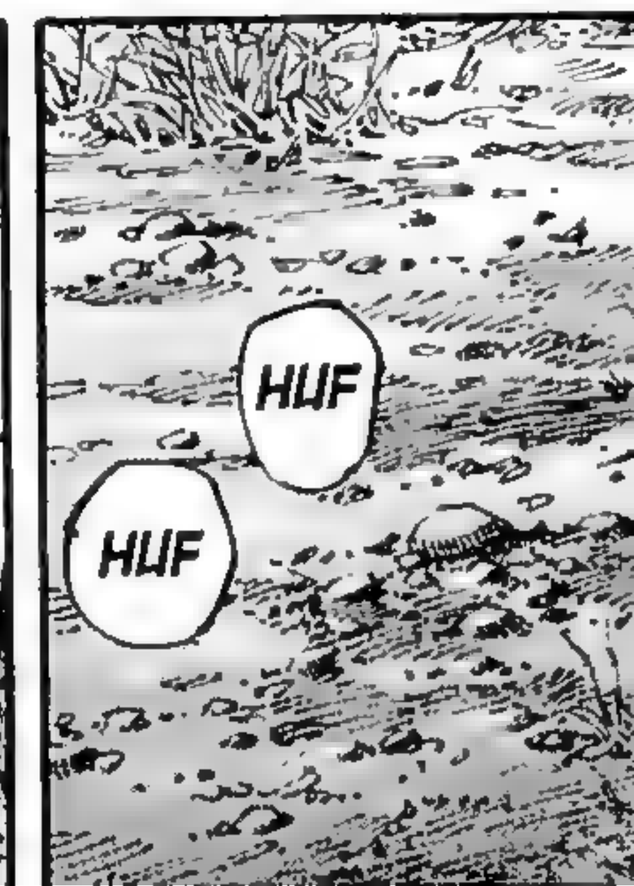
ARGH!


DAMN IT! CAN'T SEE IT.
THE CAVE.

I CAN'T FIND IT.

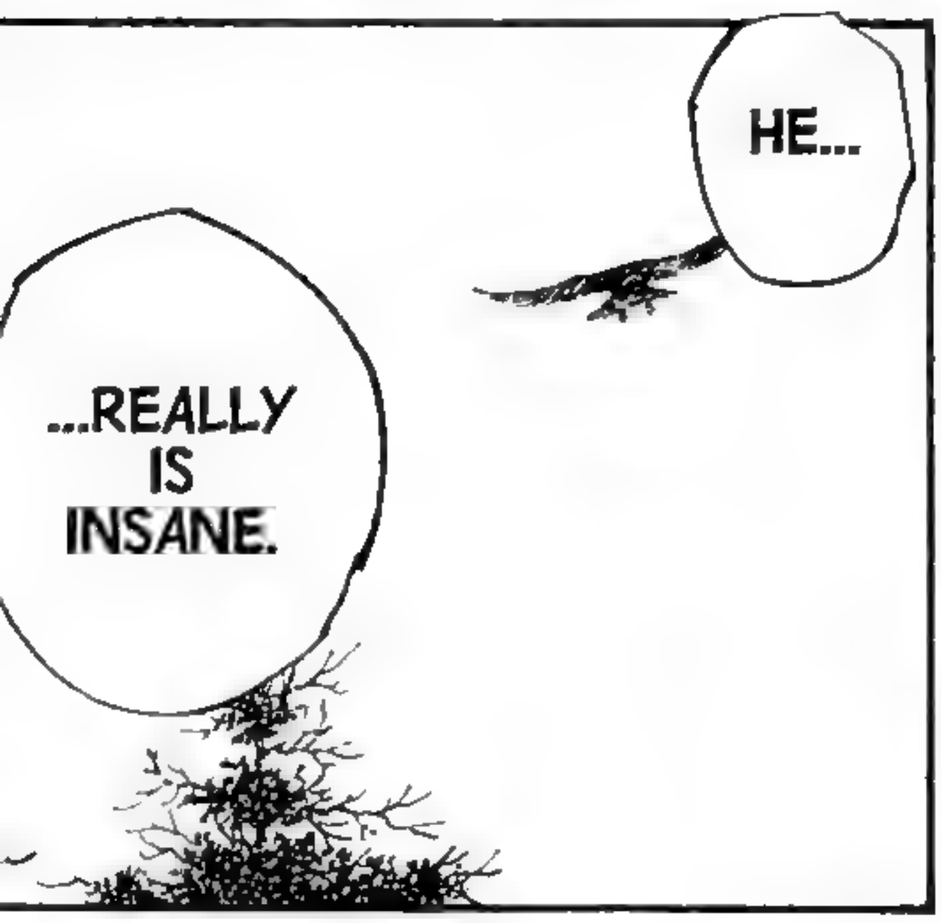
PLISH

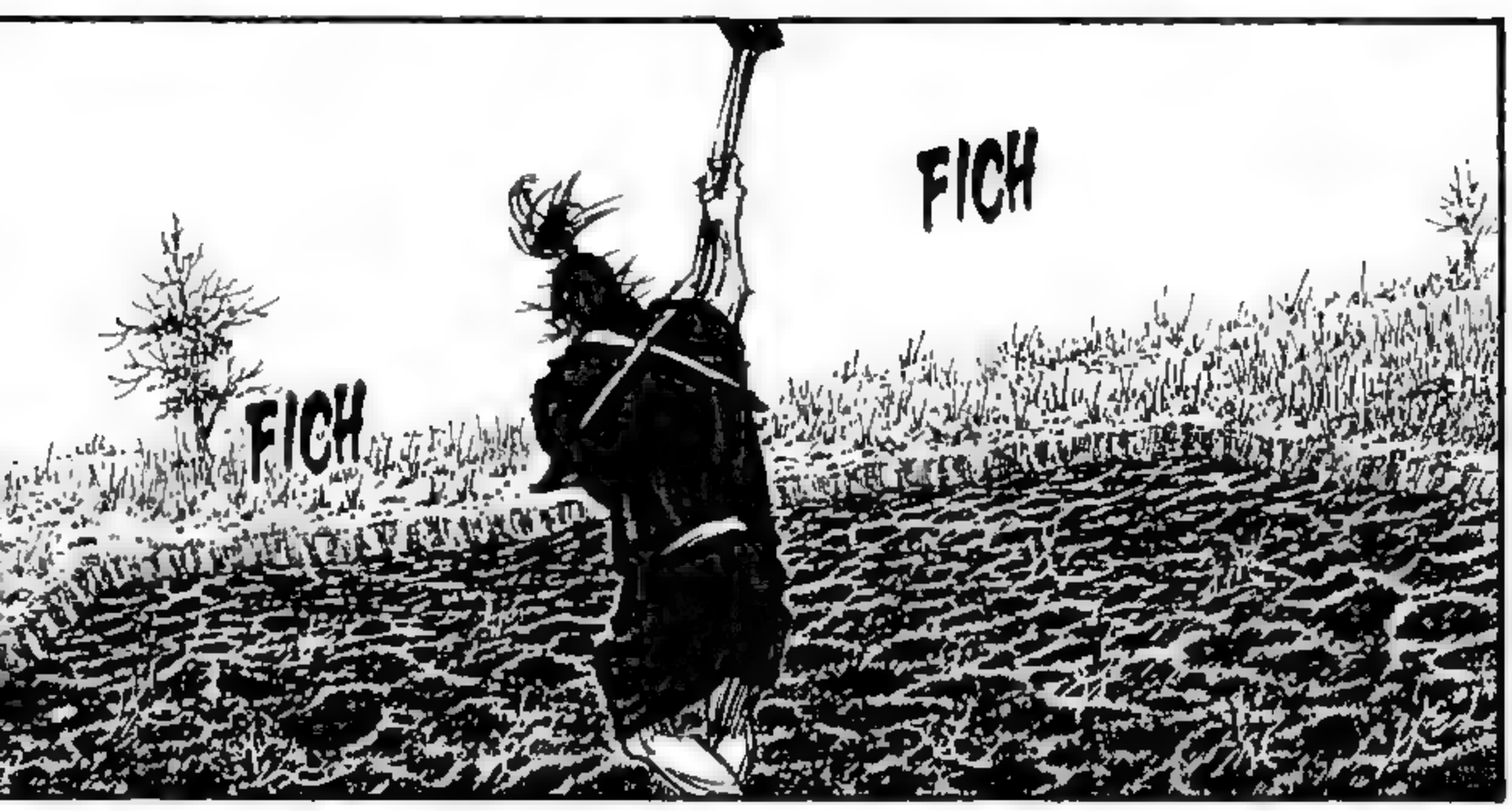
HM?
WE NEED TO STOCK UP ON WHATEVER WE CAN BEFORE WINTER...


HUF
HUF

BRR
RR
ARGH!

FWOOSH


HE...
...REALLY IS INSANE.


FICH
FICH

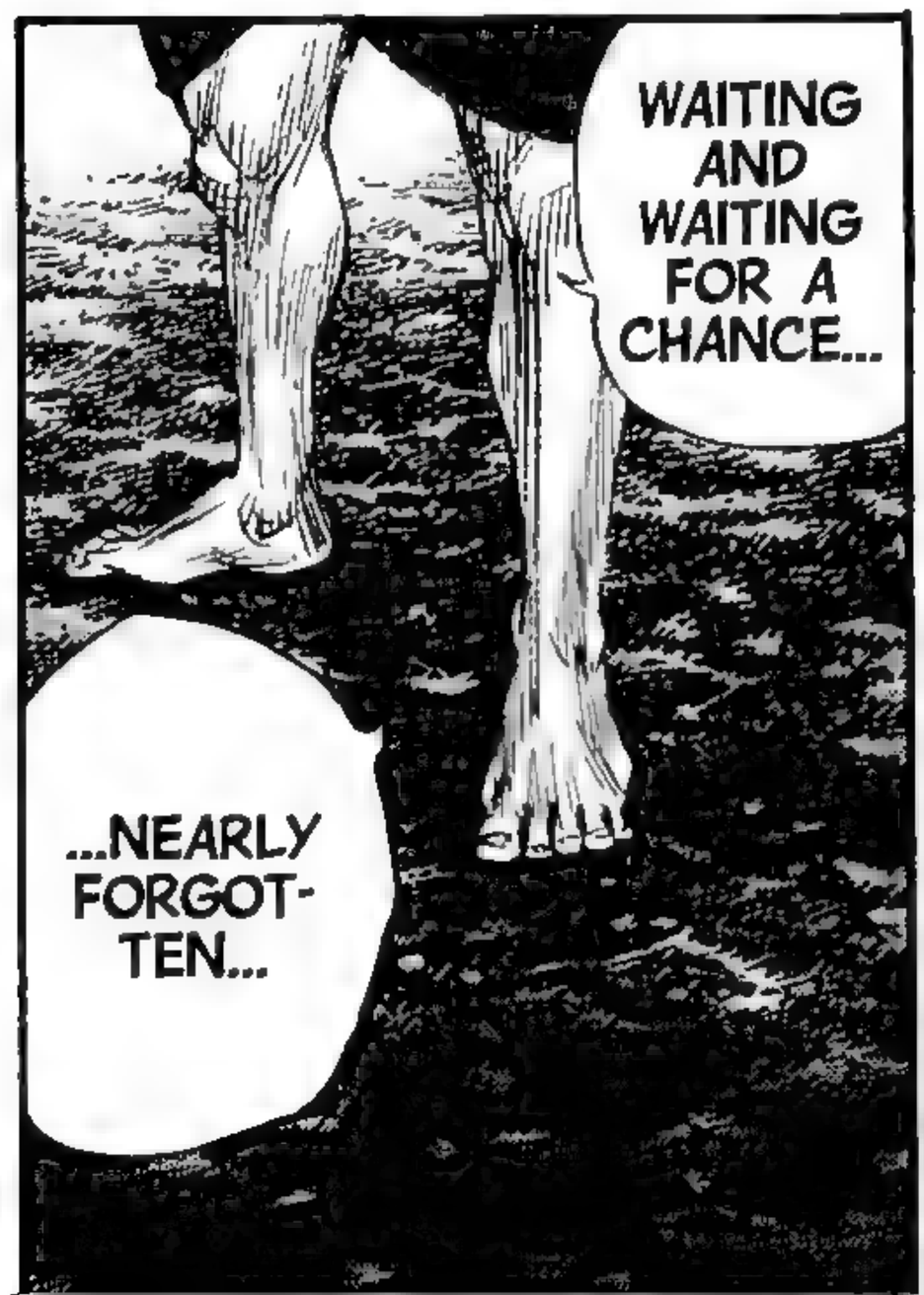
FICH

FICH

FLAILING MY SWORD AROUND LIKE THAT.
I'M JUST LIKE IORI.
SUCH A BAD EXAMPLE. TCH
NOW EVEN THIS HOE FEELS HEAVY.
WITH THE STRENGTH OF *YOUR* ARMS...
COME ON, YOU'RE MIYAMOTO MUSASHI.

FICH

IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE ARMS, IORI.

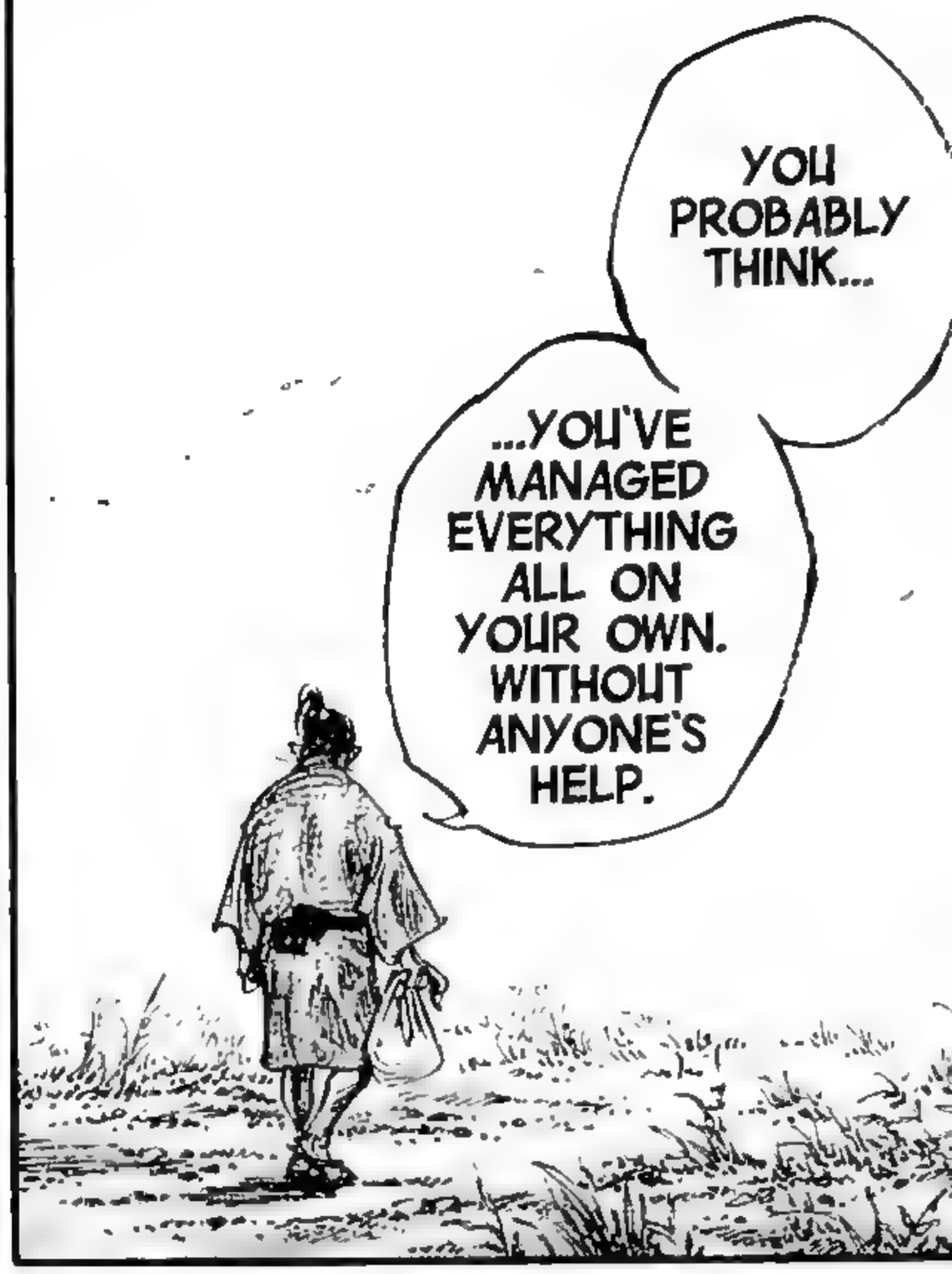

WAITING AND WAITING FOR A CHANCE...
...NEARLY FORGOTTEN...

IT'S EVERYTHING ...
...YOUR BACK...
...THE HEELS...
...YOUR GUT...
...LEGS...
IT'S ALL THERE.

THE ONLY OUTLET IN MY ARMS. NO WONDER MY SWORD IS WEAK.

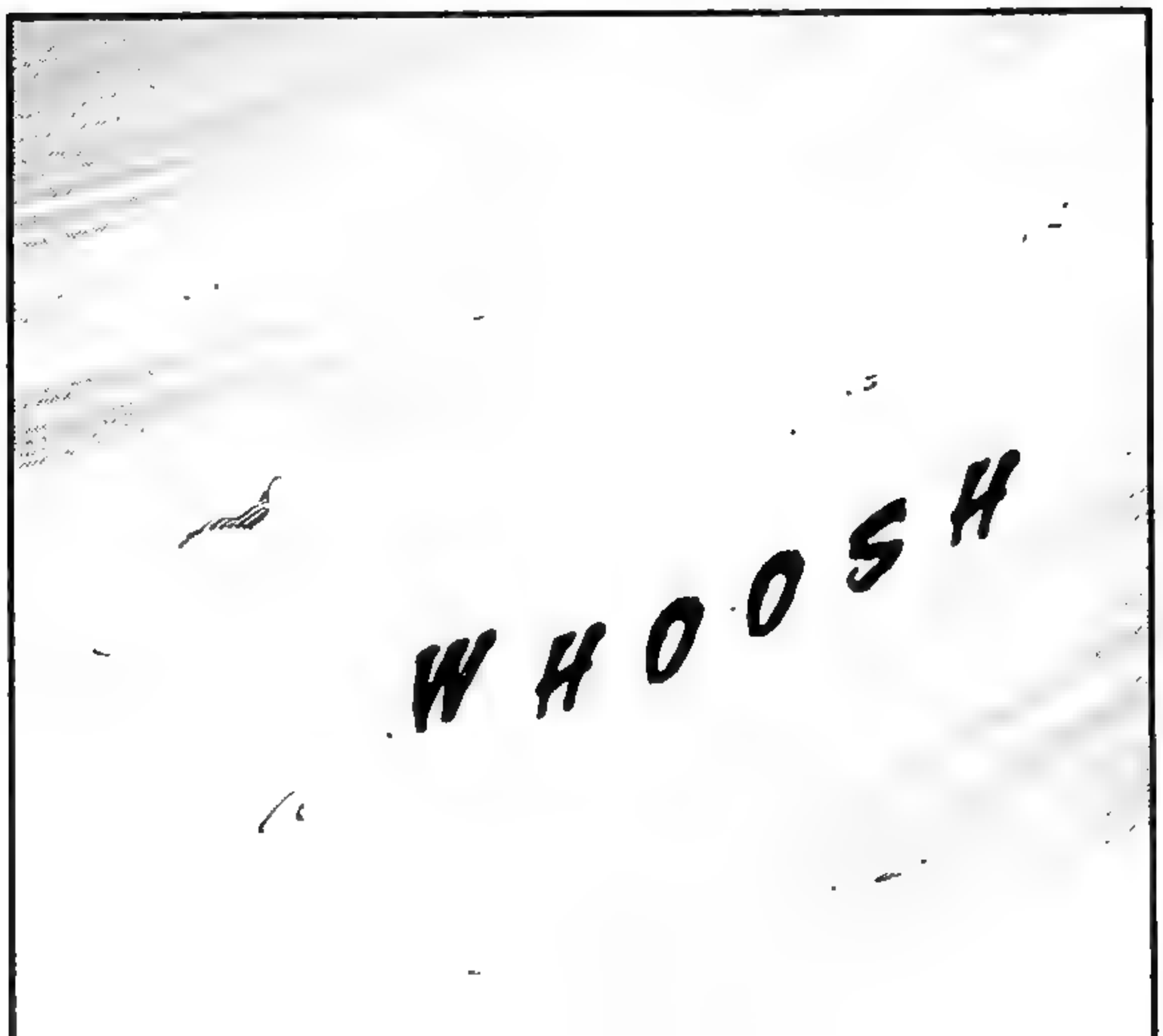
...

SWINGING STICKS TO PROVE YOUR WORTH?
ABSURD.


YOU PROBABLY THINK...
...YOU'VE MANAGED EVERYTHING ALL ON YOUR OWN. WITHOUT ANYONE'S HELP.

WE HAVE TO MAKE IT THROUGH...
FOR A YEAR.

SO LONG TO GROW THIS FAR...
TOO SOON TO PICK...


WHOOSH

SOME WILL STARVE...

HAK

HUF

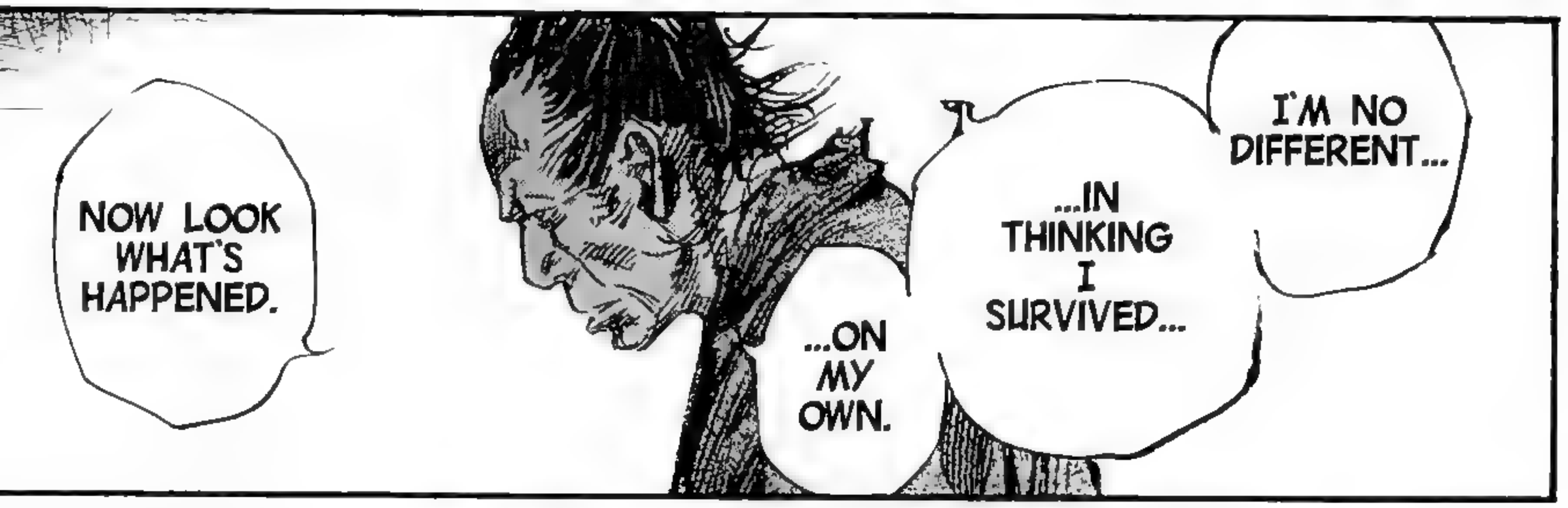
HUF

THOSE BASTARDS.

UNGH...

NO...

UNBELIEV-ABLE.
ALL THEY HAD TO DO WAS ASK FOR SOME.


NOW LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENED.
...ON MY OWN.
...IN THINKING I SURVIVED...
I'M NO DIFFERENT...

ENOUGH ALREADY. STOP.

YOU'RE FIT.

YOU'RE STRONG.

YOU'VE NEVER FARMED, AND YET YOU WON'T QUIT.

WHAT POSSESSES YOU?

YOU HAVEN'T HAD ANYTHING TO EAT.

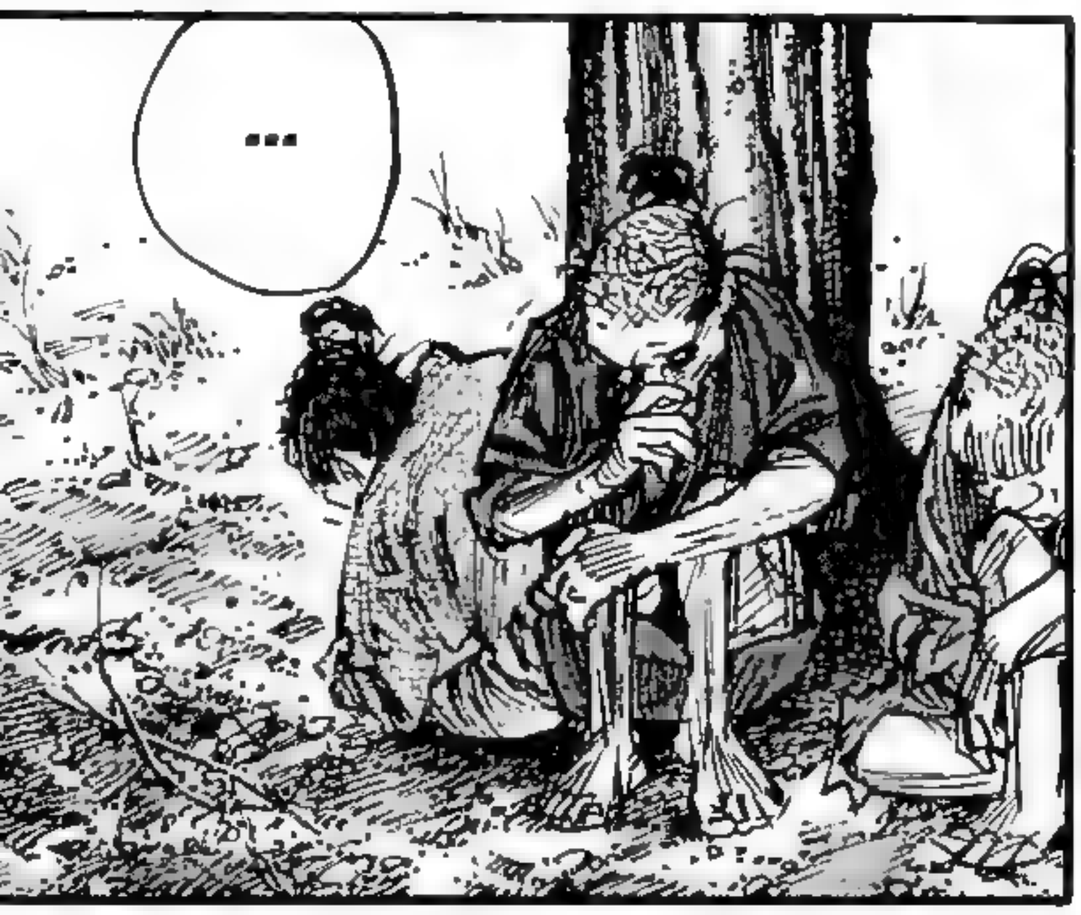
YOUR EYES.

JUST LEAVE.

ENOUGH.

DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?

...?


...

?

...IS HARD TO TAKE WHEN YOU'VE GIVEN UP AND ARE DOING NOTHING.
THE SIGHT OF A SINGLE PERSON STRUGGLING TO GET STRONGER...

...IT BECOMES ALL TOO APPARENT.
SO THEY TRY TO GET RID OF YOU.
WHEN EVERYONE'S DOWN AND OUT, IT'S EASY TO FORGET YOUR DESPAIR, BUT AS SOON AS THERE'S SOMEONE DIFFERENT...

WHEN THEY CAN'T EVEN DO THAT MUCH...
...THEY DESPISE AND SHUN YOU.

...THEY WON'T HAVE TO FACE THEMSELVES.
SO...

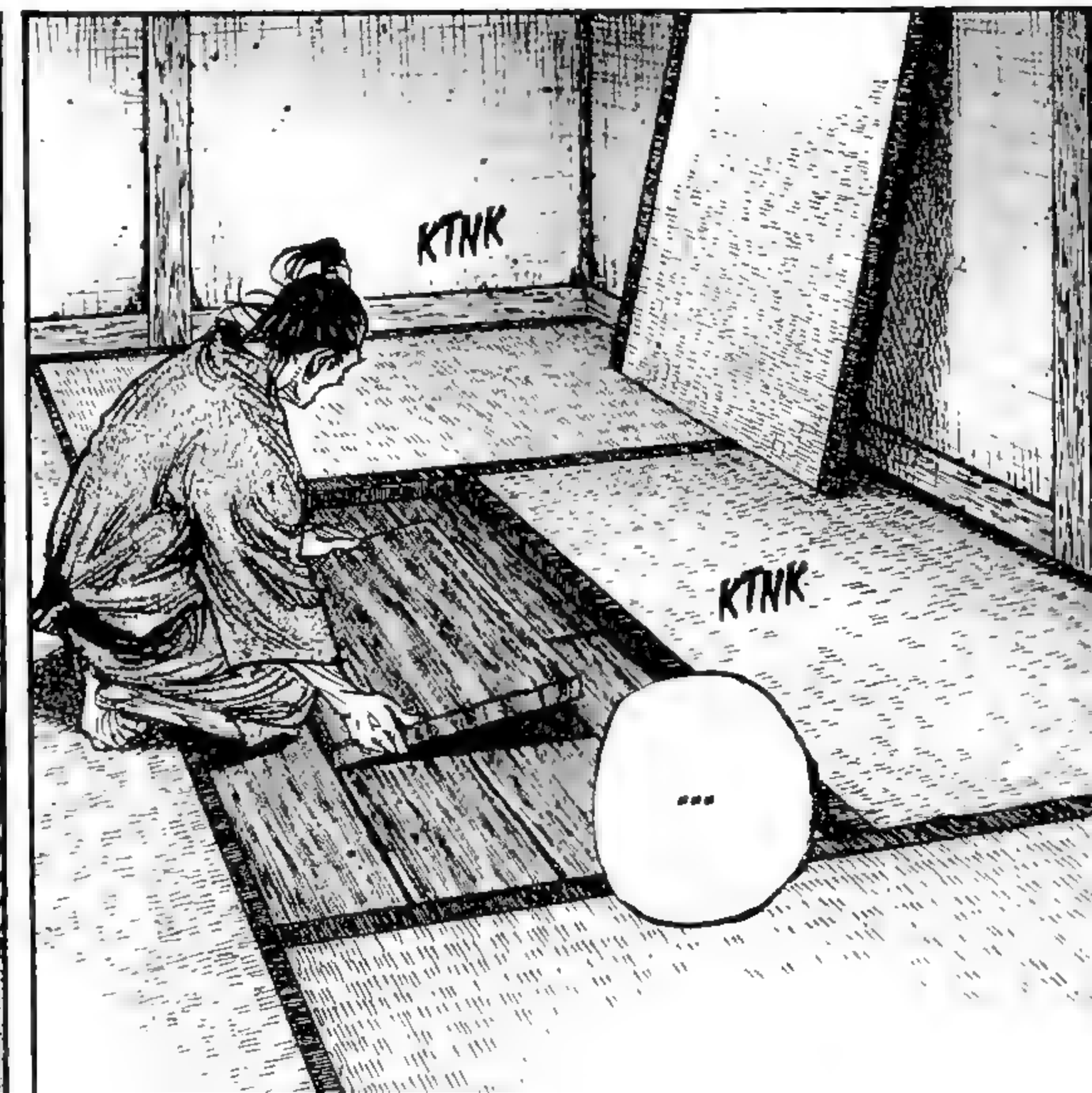
NOD
NOD
YOUR FATHER SAY THAT?
DID YOU MEMO-RIZE THAT?

IMPRESSIVE.
WHERE'D THAT COME FROM, IORI?

...

YAH
YAH

KTNK


KTNK
KTNK
...

!

FIWP

FSSH

MY BATCH OF SEED RICE IS SAFE.
PHEW
GOOD THING I HID IT AWAY.

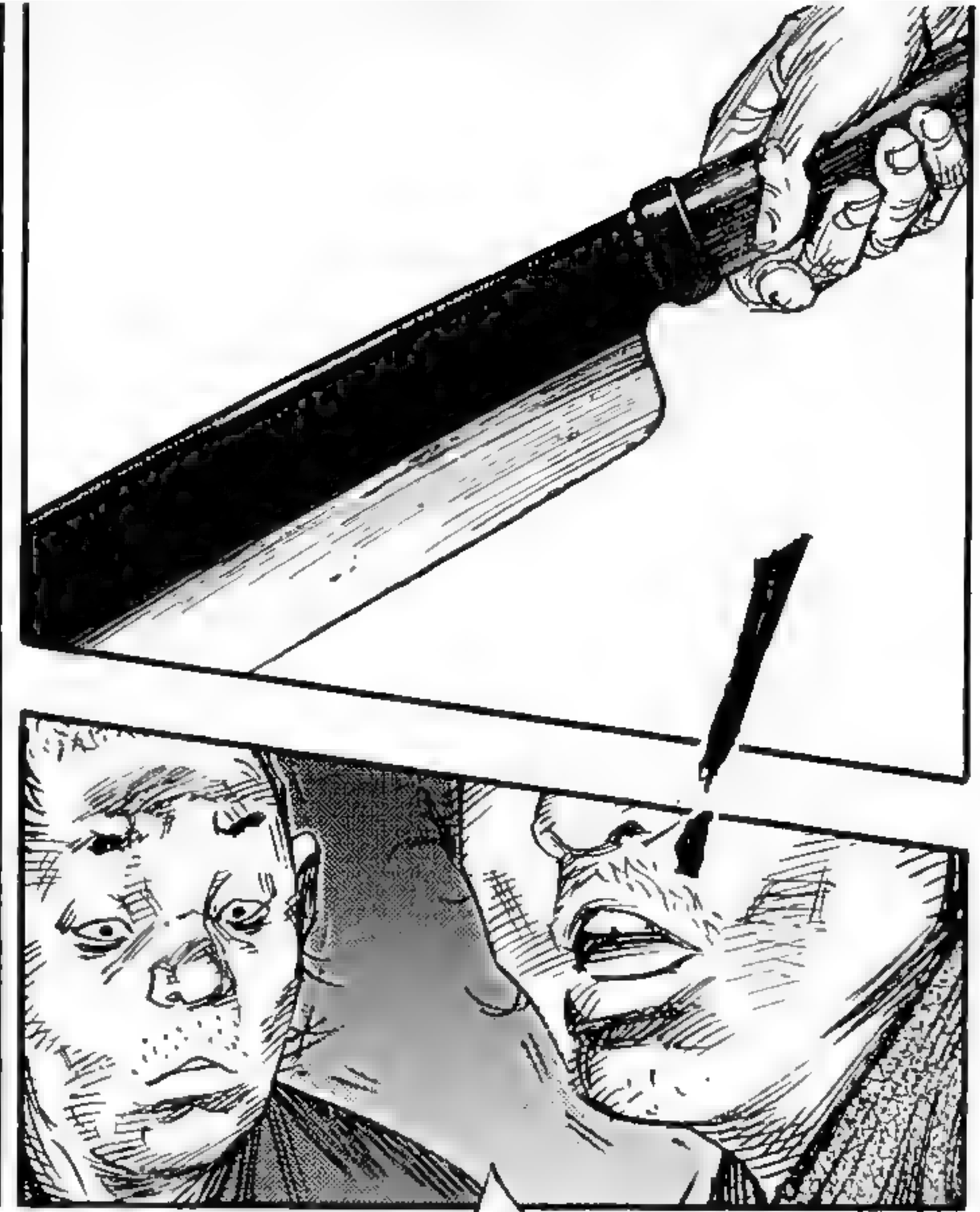
ONLY EAT LITTLE BY LITTLE...
CAN'T BE FOUND OUT.
NOK NOK

WE GOTTA SURVIVE.
HEH HEH... WE DID IT...

?!

BUT YOU TWO ARE ON YOUR OWN.
I WAS HOPING YOU WERE DESPERATE...
...TO SAVE YOUR FAMILIES, OR SOME-THING...

WELL, AT LEAST NO ONE WILL BE MISSING YOU.
EH?



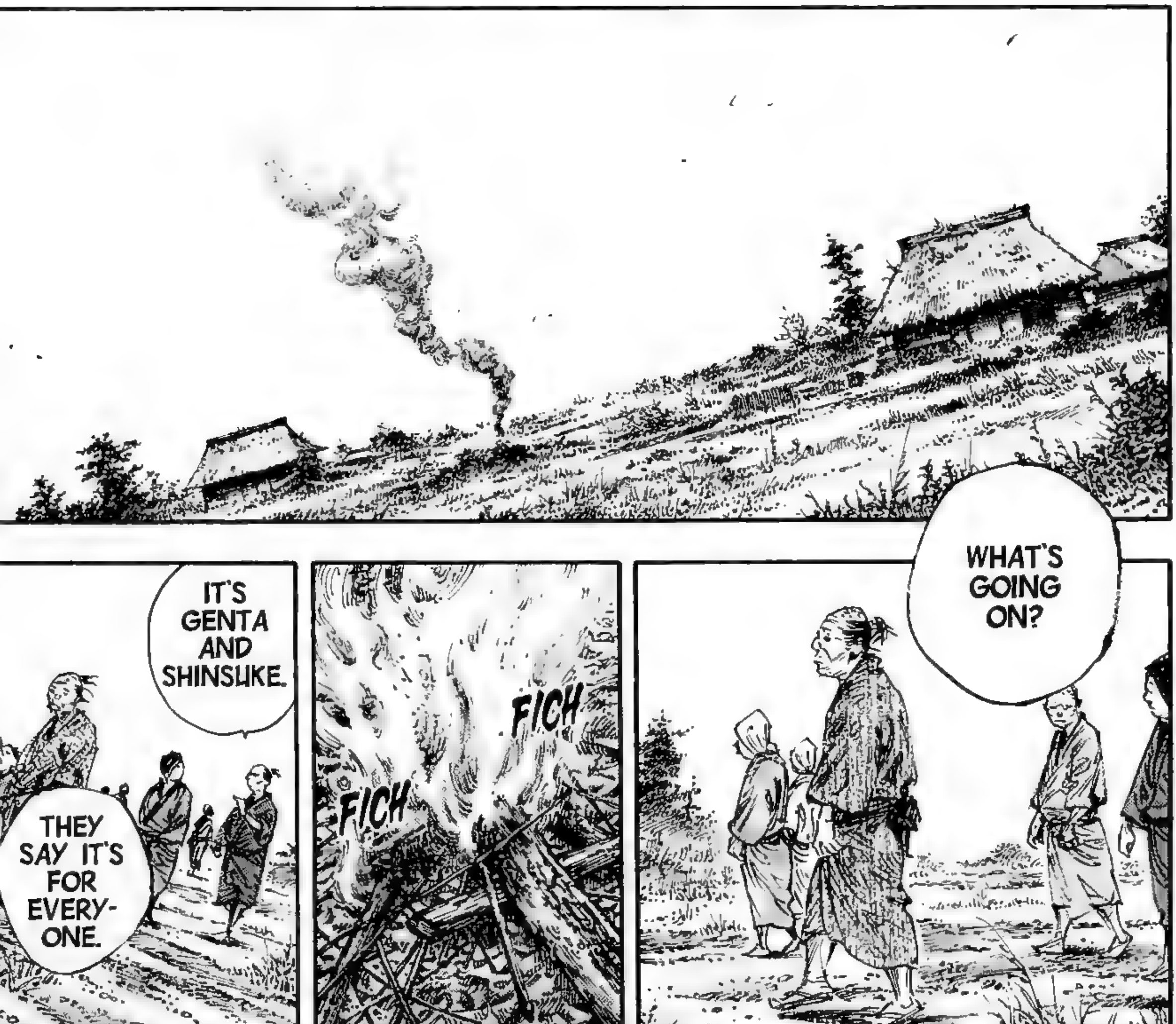
UH...
AH...
ARRRGH!

THUNK

...

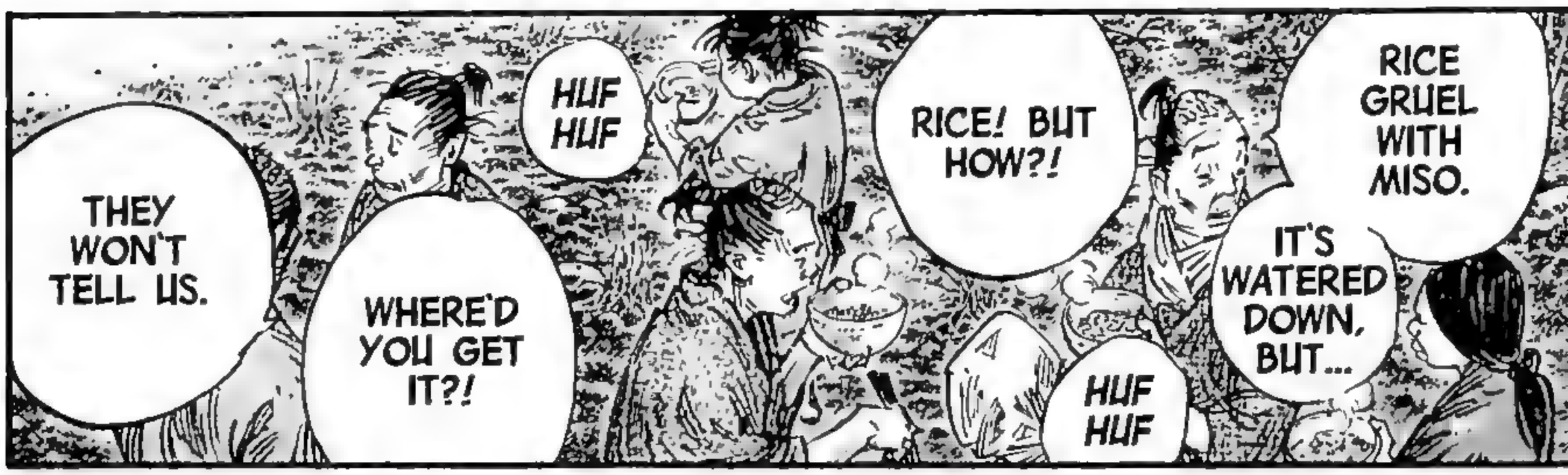
ONLY ONE WAY TO BE SPARED.

CARE TO HEAR IT?



JOIN US!

WE'RE FACING HARD TIMES!!



HUF
HUF

YAY!
WE HAVE SOME RICE BALLS HERE TOO.

ARE YOU CRYING ?
IT'S THE SMOKE.

MNCH

WHY, WHAT A SURPRISE.

KUŌBE.

HERE.

OTHERWISE YOU'LL STARVE TO DEATH IN A FEW DAYS.

HERE, HAVE SOME OF THIS.

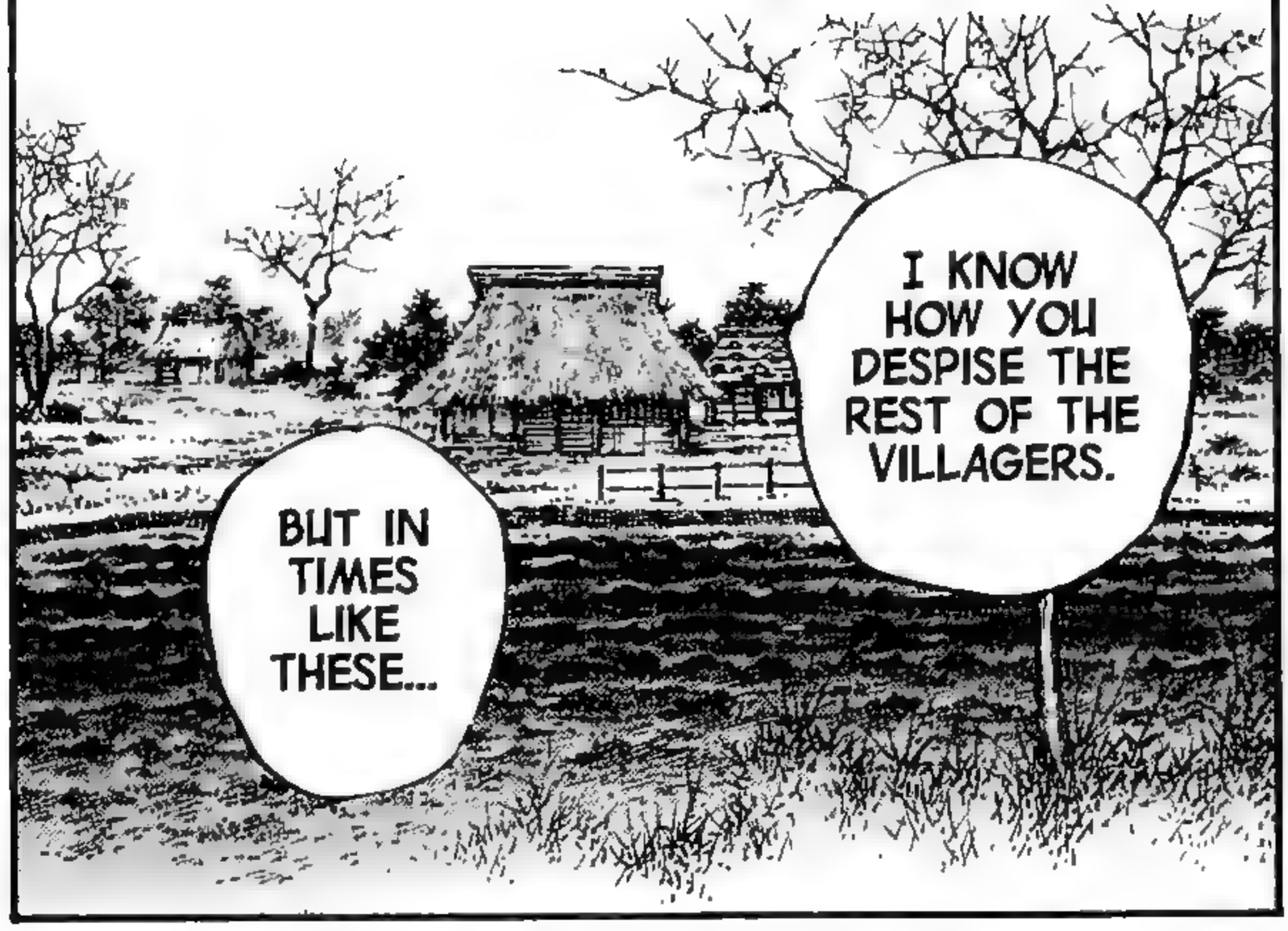
YOU'RE NOT LOOKING SO WELL, OLD MAN.

THOSE TWO? IMPOSSIBLE.

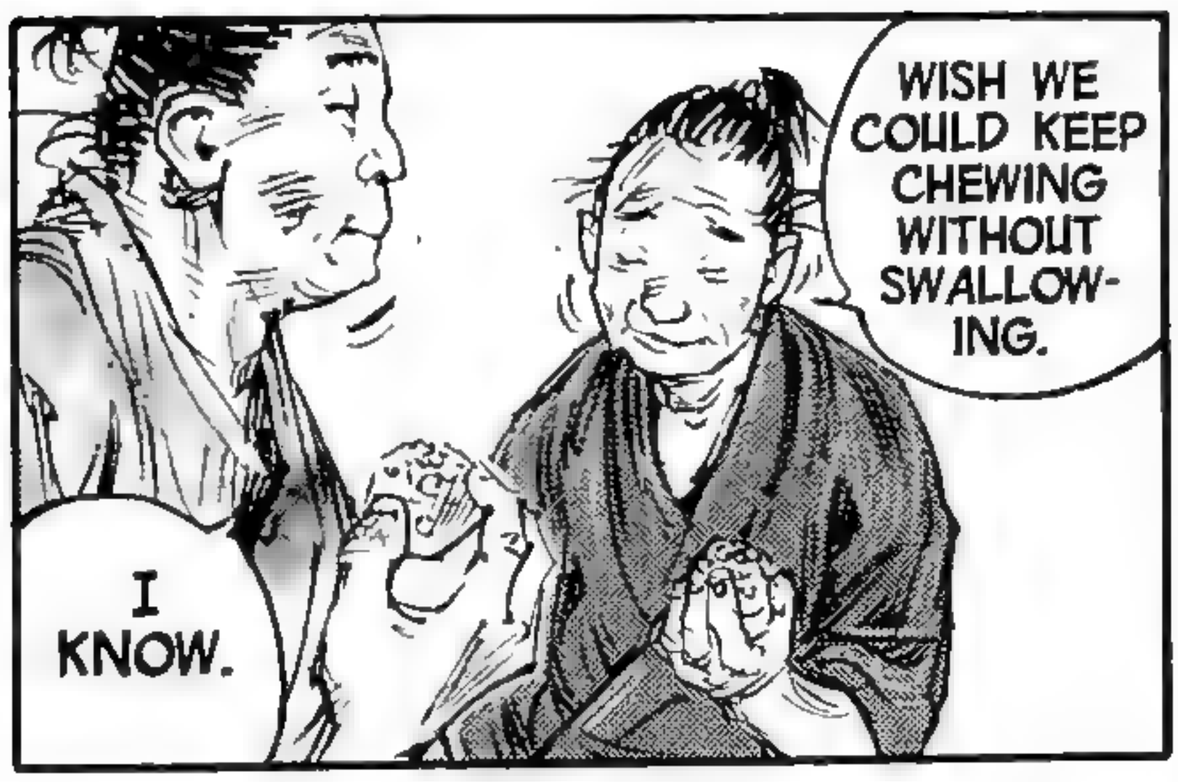
I HEARD ABOUT GENTA AND SHINSUKE FEEDING EVERYONE.

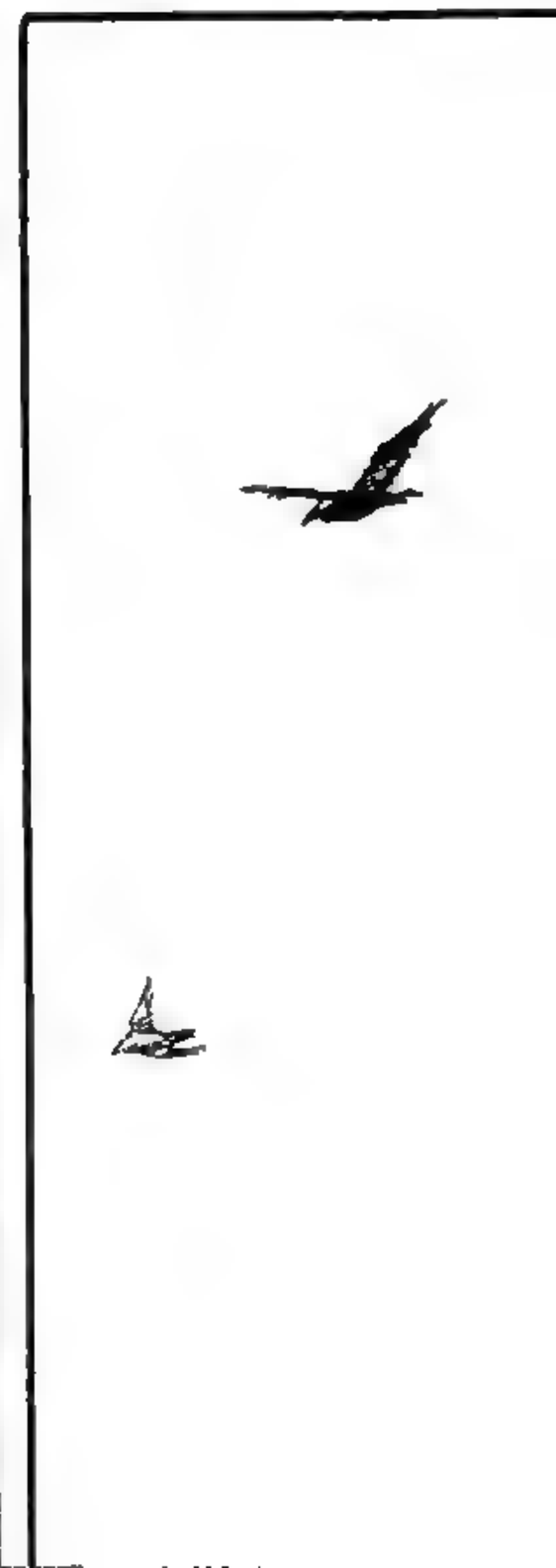
IT MUST HAVE BEEN YOU, SHŪSAKU.
THANK YOU.

GIVE THIS TO HATSU, SHŌZŌ'S WIFE.
I HEARD SHE'S SO WEAK SHE CAN'T EVEN NURSE HER BABY.
SHŪSAKU.

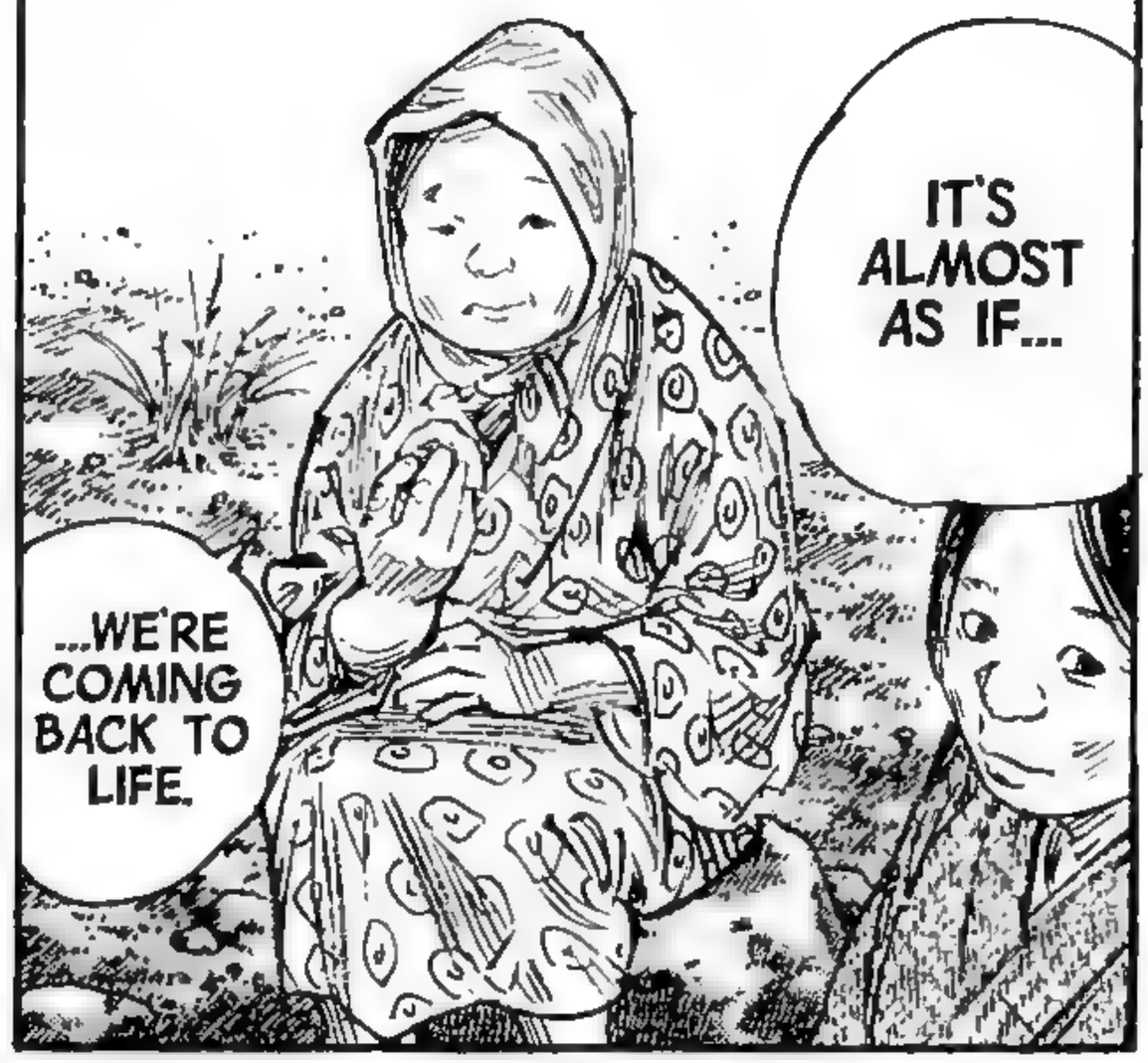

BUT IN TIMES LIKE THESE...
I KNOW HOW YOU DESPISE THE REST OF THE VILLAGERS.

...YOU'VE GOT TO HELP THEM.


WISH WE COULD KEEP CHEWING WITHOUT SWALLOW-ING.
I KNOW.

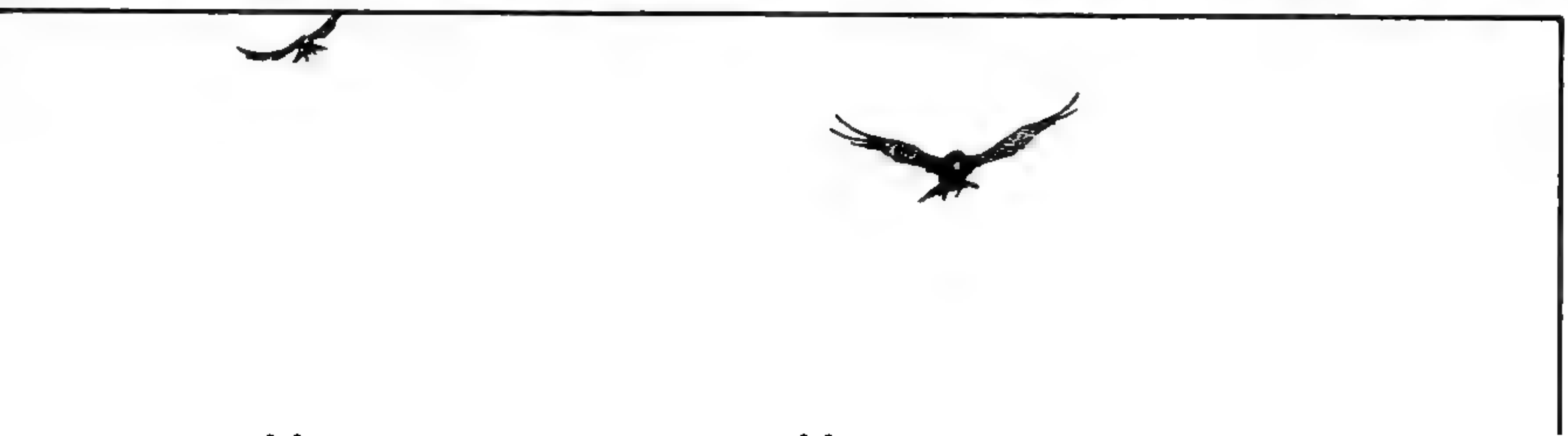


...


IT'S ALMOST AS IF...
...WE'RE COMING BACK TO LIFE.

GENTA AND SHINSUKE, THANK YOU.

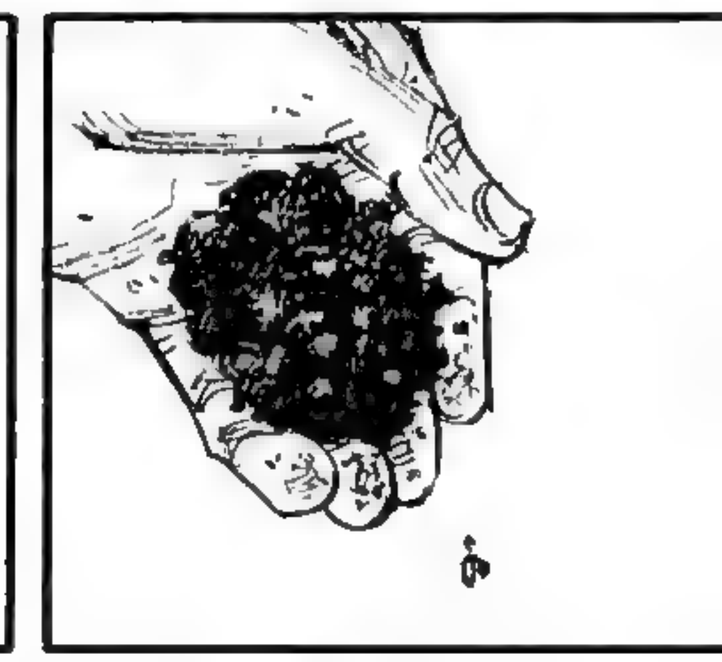
I'M GOING TO LIVE...



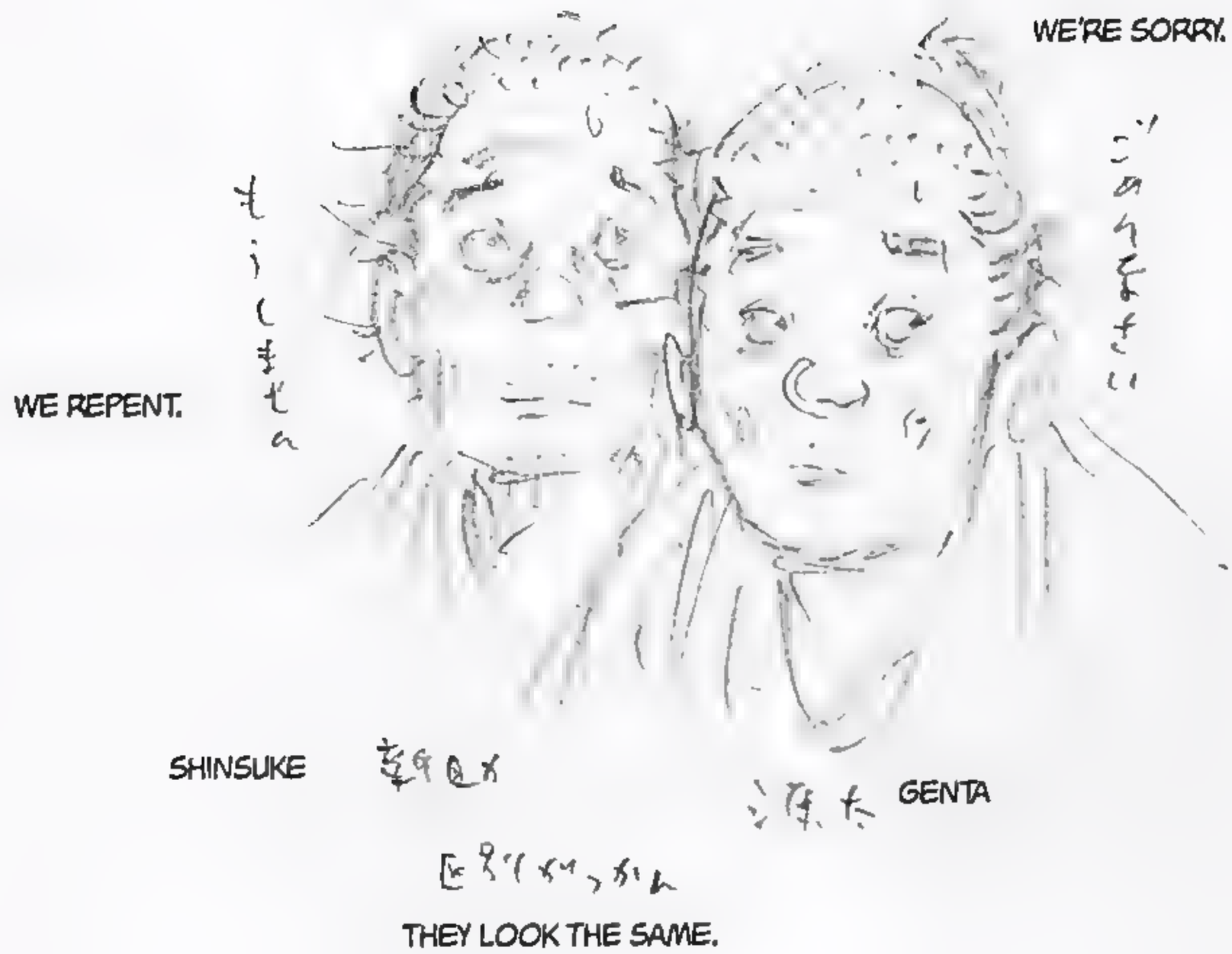
GOOD.

NOPE.

IS SHŪSAKU HERE?



...
MNCH
MNCH


WE'RE SORRY.
WE REPENT.
SHINSUKE
GENTA
THEY LOOK THE SAME.

IS SHŪSAKU HERE?
NO.

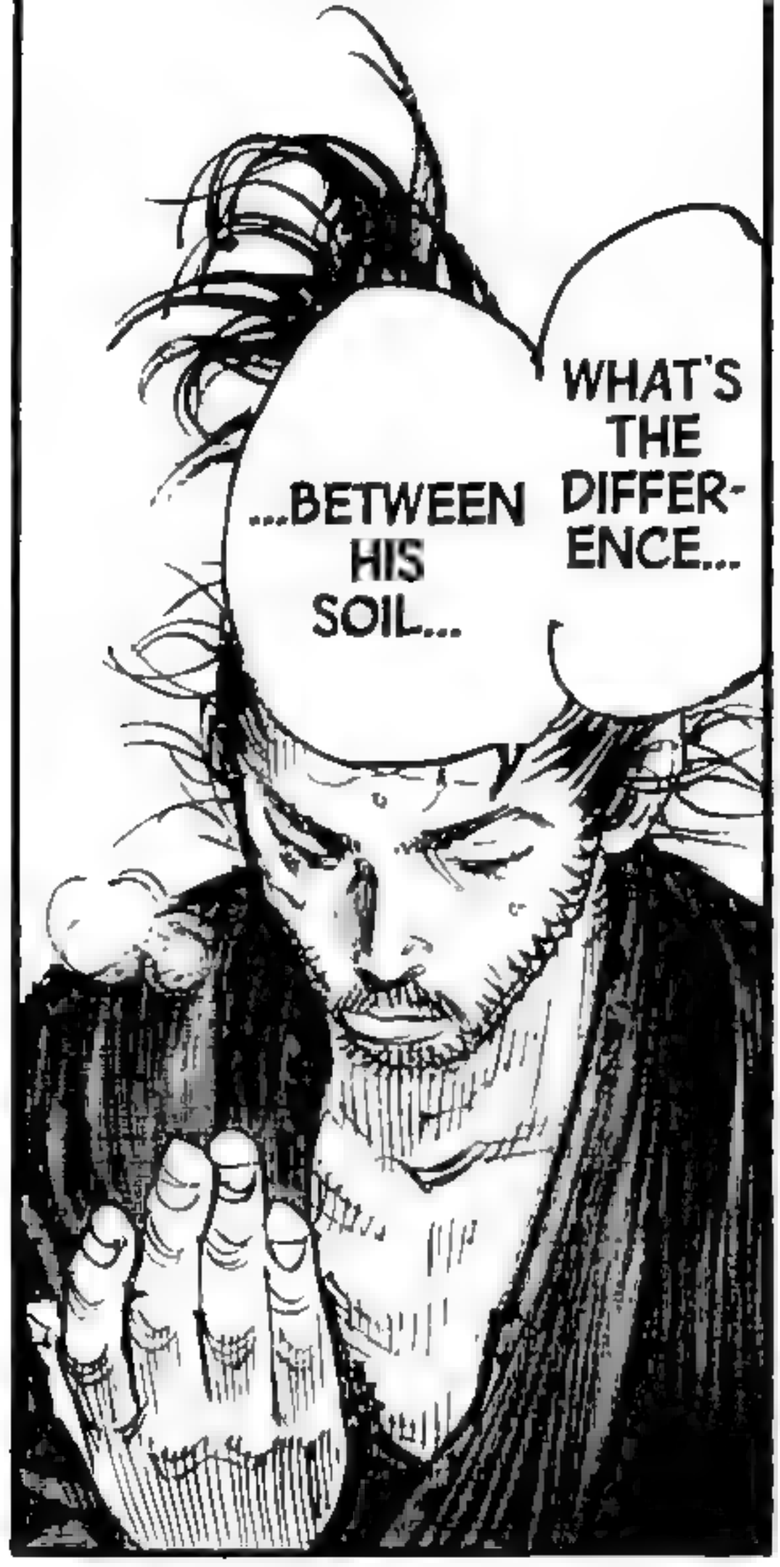
...

...

MNCH

PTU

#311 Brimming with Life


...BETWEEN HIS SOIL...
WHAT'S THE DIFFER-ENCE...

HUF HUF
HUF

...

...AND OURS?

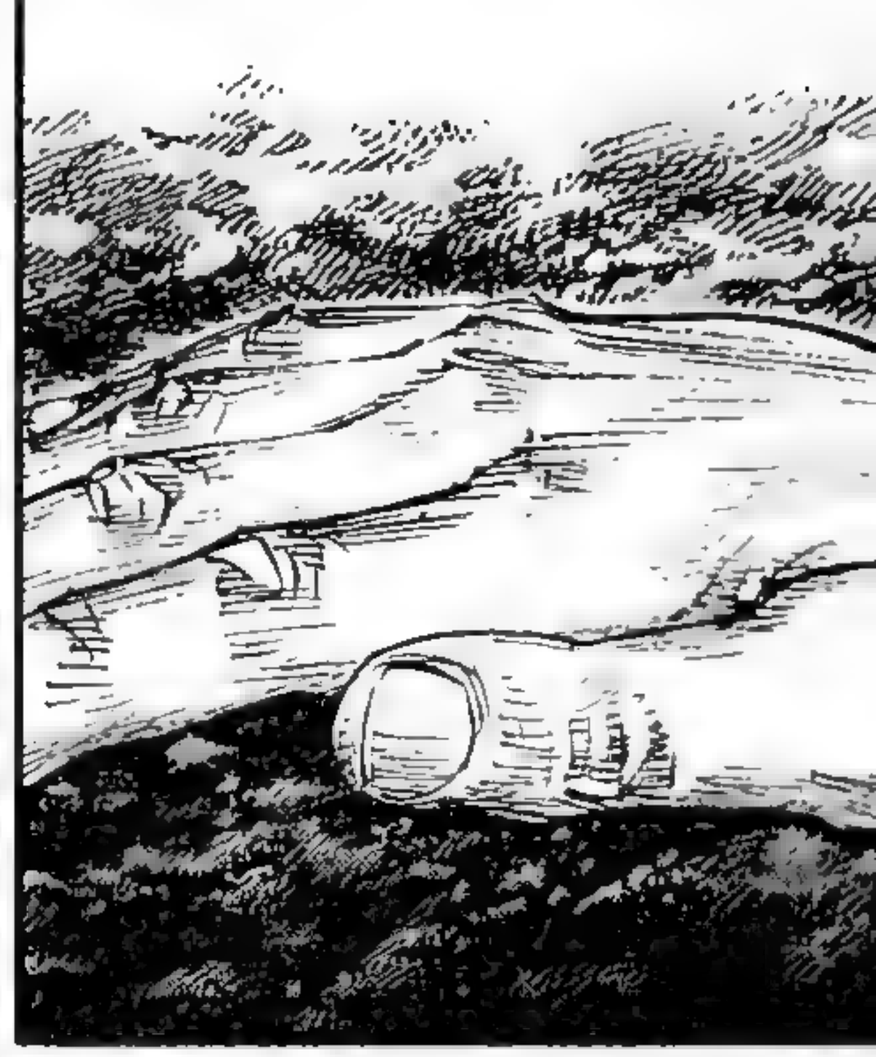
WHAT IS SO DIFFERENT?
PTU PTU PTU
IT'S JUST SOIL.
NEITHER SHOULD BE EATEN.

SWISH SWISH SWISH

THIS IS DISGUST-ING!
HAK HAK HAK

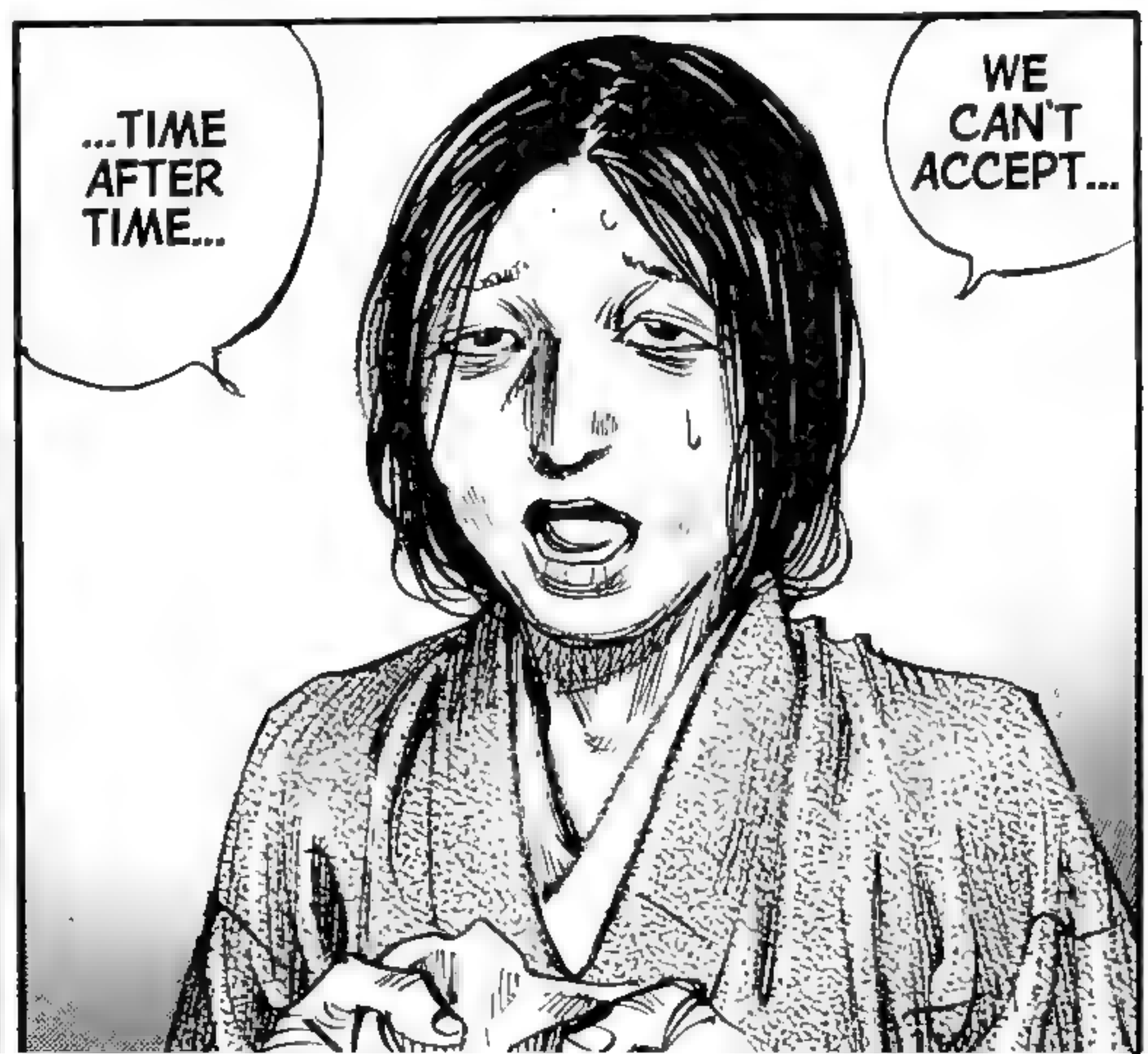
I'M HERE AGAIN...
IT'S JUST THAT SHŪSAKU'S SOIL IS...
?
TP
TP
TP

HM
SNIFF SNIFF



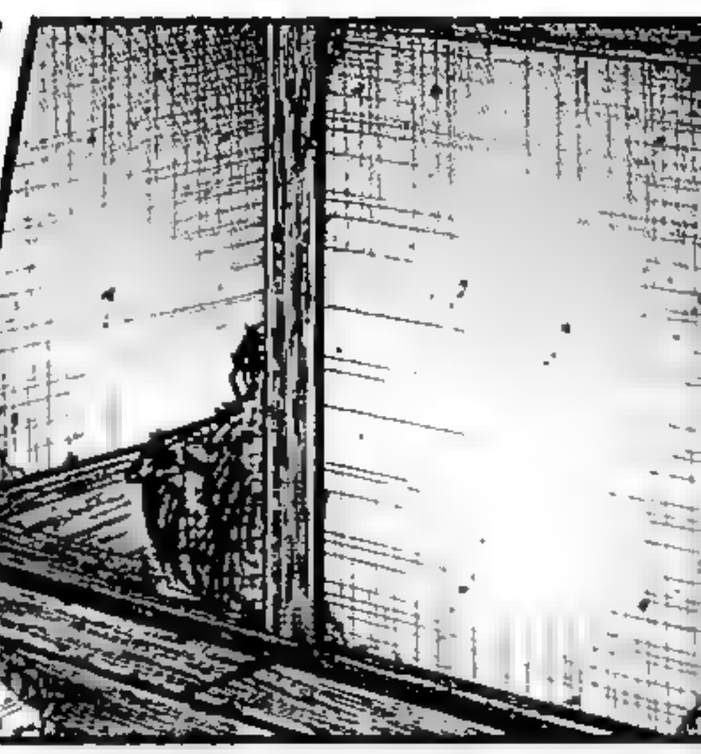
...

WHUD



YOU HAVEN'T HAD MUCH TO EAT EITHER, RIGHT, SHU-SAKU?
...AND YET...

...



JUST EAT.
...

HM?

PAT
PAT

STOP THAT.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING TO MY FIELD?!
HEY!

?

SHŪSAKU...

HUF
HUF
TP TP TP

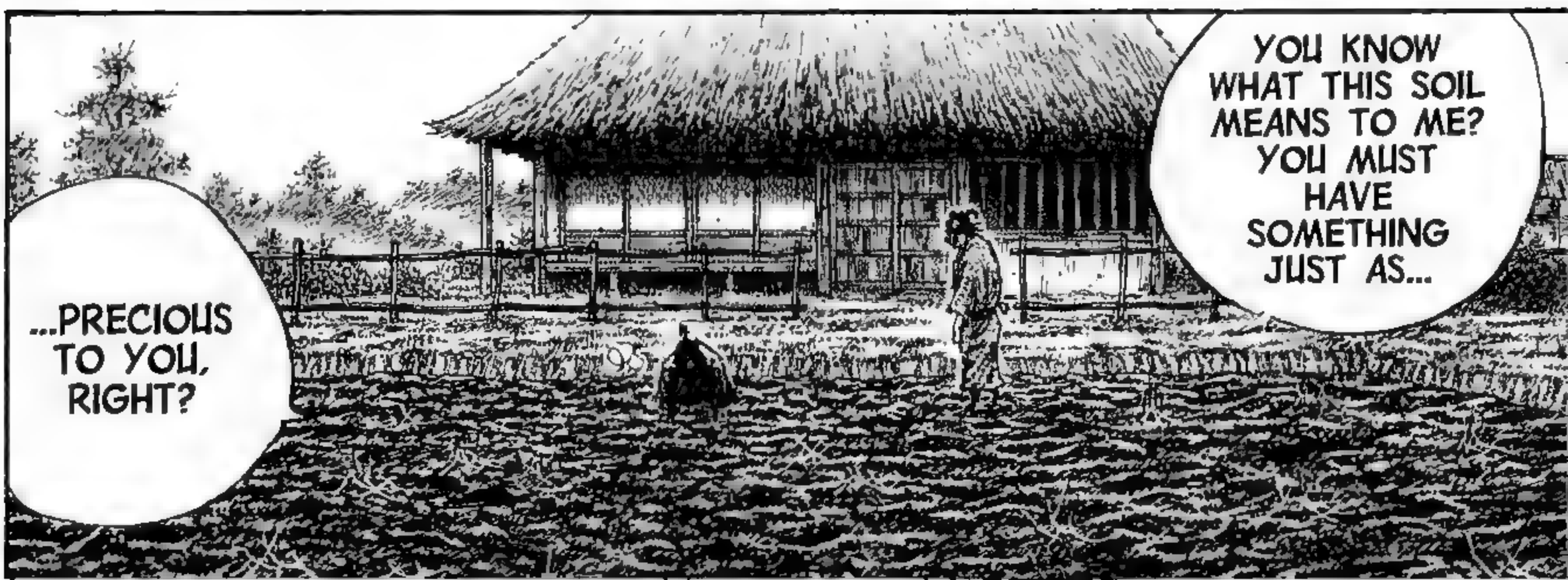
THUNK
UNGH

WHAT WAS THAT FOR?

WON'T YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR SOIL?
THE GOOD SOIL MIGHT HELP IORI'S FIELD.

...ASK FOR MY SOIL?
HOW DARE YOU...

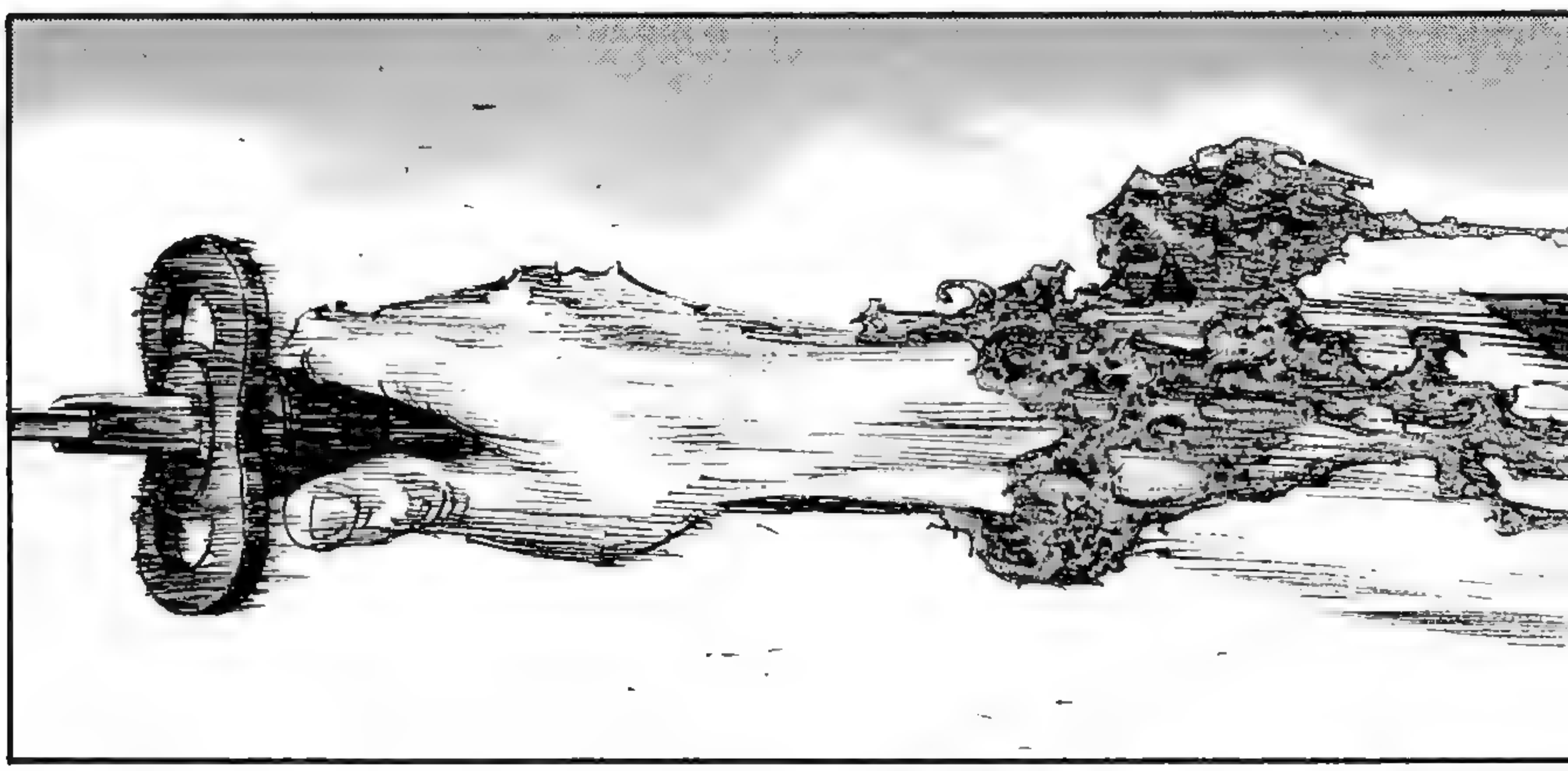
THUNK
UGH...


...PRECIOUS TO YOU, RIGHT?
YOU KNOW WHAT THIS SOIL MEANS TO ME? YOU MUST HAVE SOMETHING JUST AS...

...YOU SCUM...
OR DIDN'T YOU EVER THINK ABOUT IT...

...OR YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO PLANT RICE IN THE SPRING.
...HAVE TO BE READY BEFORE WINTER COMES...
THE SOIL AND THE PADDIES...

...IT'S TOO LATE.
NOW...
THE VILLAGE HAS NO HOPE...



CHAK

HE'S BACK IN MY FIELD AGAIN.

AGAIN...
!!

I'LL TELL YOU THE DIFFERENCE.

YOUR SOIL HAS NEVER BEEN TOUCHED.
OUR LIVES HAVE BEEN CONNECTED TO THAT SOIL FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.
LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF THAT SOIL.

!
IT'S SIMPLE.

IT'S BRIMMING WITH LIFE.

GIVE IT UP.

A MAN DEDICATED TO KILLING OTHERS COULDN'T POSSIBLY GRASP THAT KIND OF LIFE.

KTUNK

DAMN IT.

...!!

WE DID ALL THIS PLOWING, BUT LOOK AT THIS...
NOT YET, GONZŌ.

I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND...
...THE NATURE OF SOIL...

...
LET'S TRY FLOODING IT.

BEFORE, I COULDN'T EVEN TELL THE DIFFERENCE, AND THAT WAS WHY WE FAILED LAST TIME WE TRIED FLOODING THE FIELD.

...BUT I CAN TELL IT'S JUST NOT AS GOOD AS SHŪSAKU'S.

THEN WE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING.

BUT WINTER'S COMING!

THE SOIL IS GOING TO FREEZE OVER.

WE'RE AT THE MERCY OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.

ALL RIGHT.

WE'RE NOT THERE YET.

THE SERIOUS-NESS IT TAKES...

BUT IT'S THIS DIFFERENCE THAT'LL YIELD A CROP OR NOT. THE URGENCY...

F

S

H

H

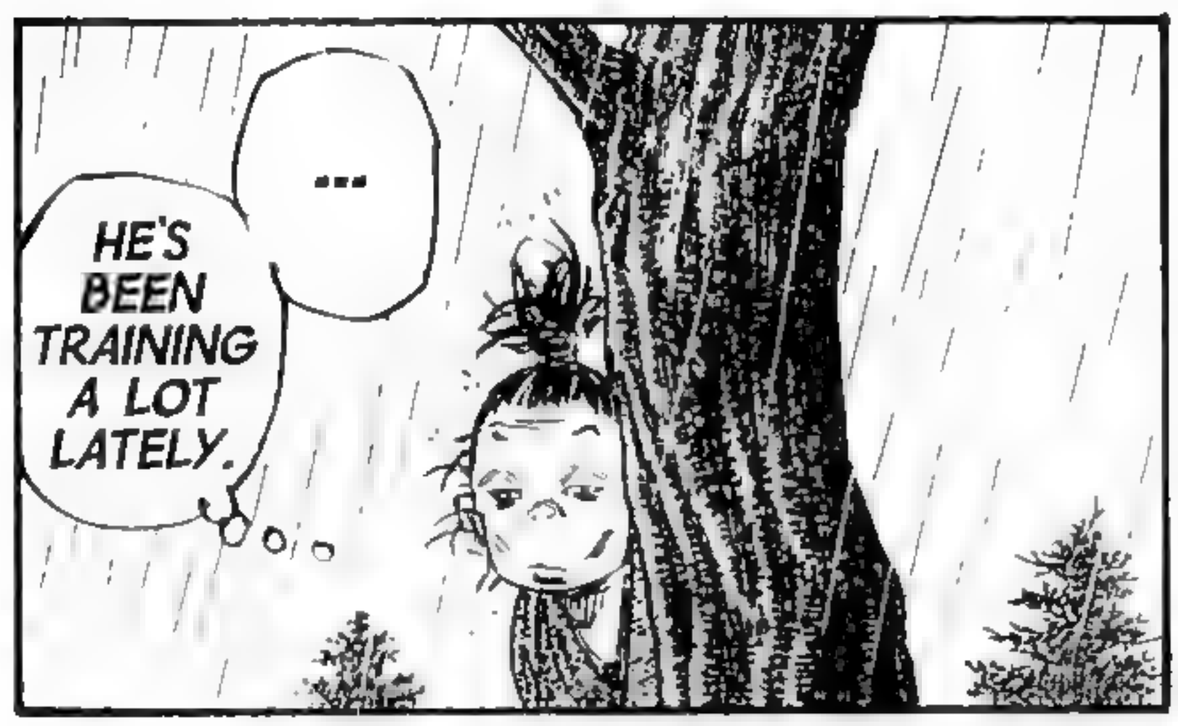
H

H

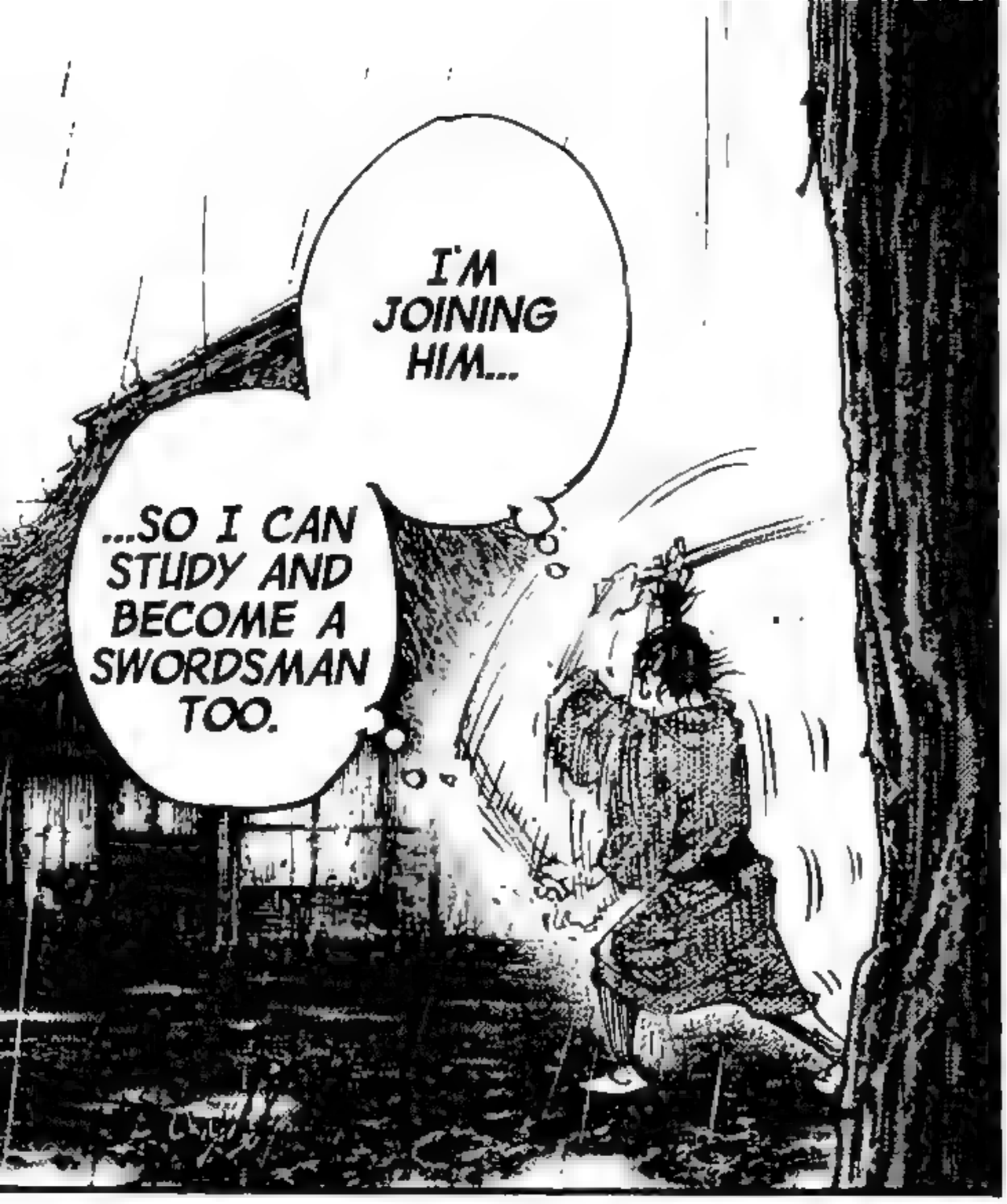
WITHOUT IT, THE LAND GOT FLOODED.
WE'VE MANAGED TO GET THIS FAR THANKS TO THAT WATER CHANNEL.
SO WE HAVE YOU TO THANK FOR THAT.
COME TO THINK OF IT...
MU-SASHI ...
THAT'S IT FOR TODAY.
DAMN.

...WARM.

...IT FELT...
SHŪSAKU'S SOIL FELT REALLY FINE...
HUH?


...
HE'S BEEN TRAINING A LOT LATELY.

LET'S FACE IT. THE RICE FIELD ISN'T WORKING OUT.
THIS MUST MEAN HE'S GOING BACK TO BEING A SWORDS-MAN.


I'M JOINING HIM...
...SO I CAN STUDY AND BECOME A SWORDSMAN TOO.

SOON HE'LL LEAVE AND JOIN THE CASTLE.
THE WORLD OF CAS-TLES.

ME...
...AND EVERY-ONE...

THE CHANNEL, HUH...
NO NEED TO THANK ME. WE DUG IT TOGETHER.

HMM...
OUT IN THIS COLD RAIN.
WHEN DOES HE REST?

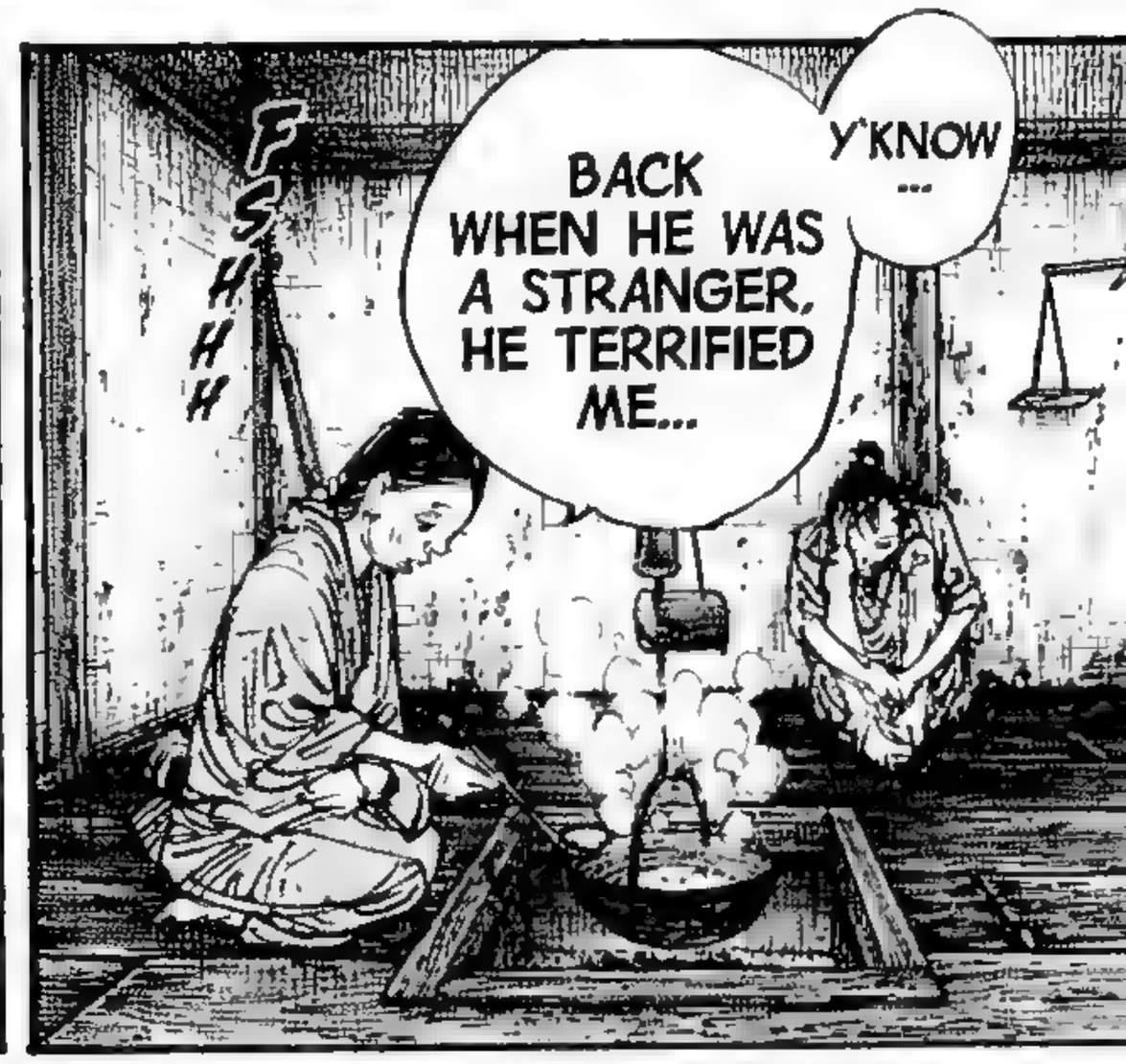
...

IT WAS ALL TOO OVER-WHELMING.

THAT POWER...
THAT FACE... THAT BODY...
THOSE EYES...

HE'S ONE OF US.

BUT HE'S NOT AGAINST US.


FSHHH
BACK WHEN HE WAS A STRANGER, HE TERRIFIED ME...
Y'KNOW ...

ADMIRABLE, REALLY...
...FOR A GUY WHO KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT PLOWING.

FSHHH

WHAT...? HOPE?
ME?

DON'T YOU REALIZE WHO I AM?
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME.

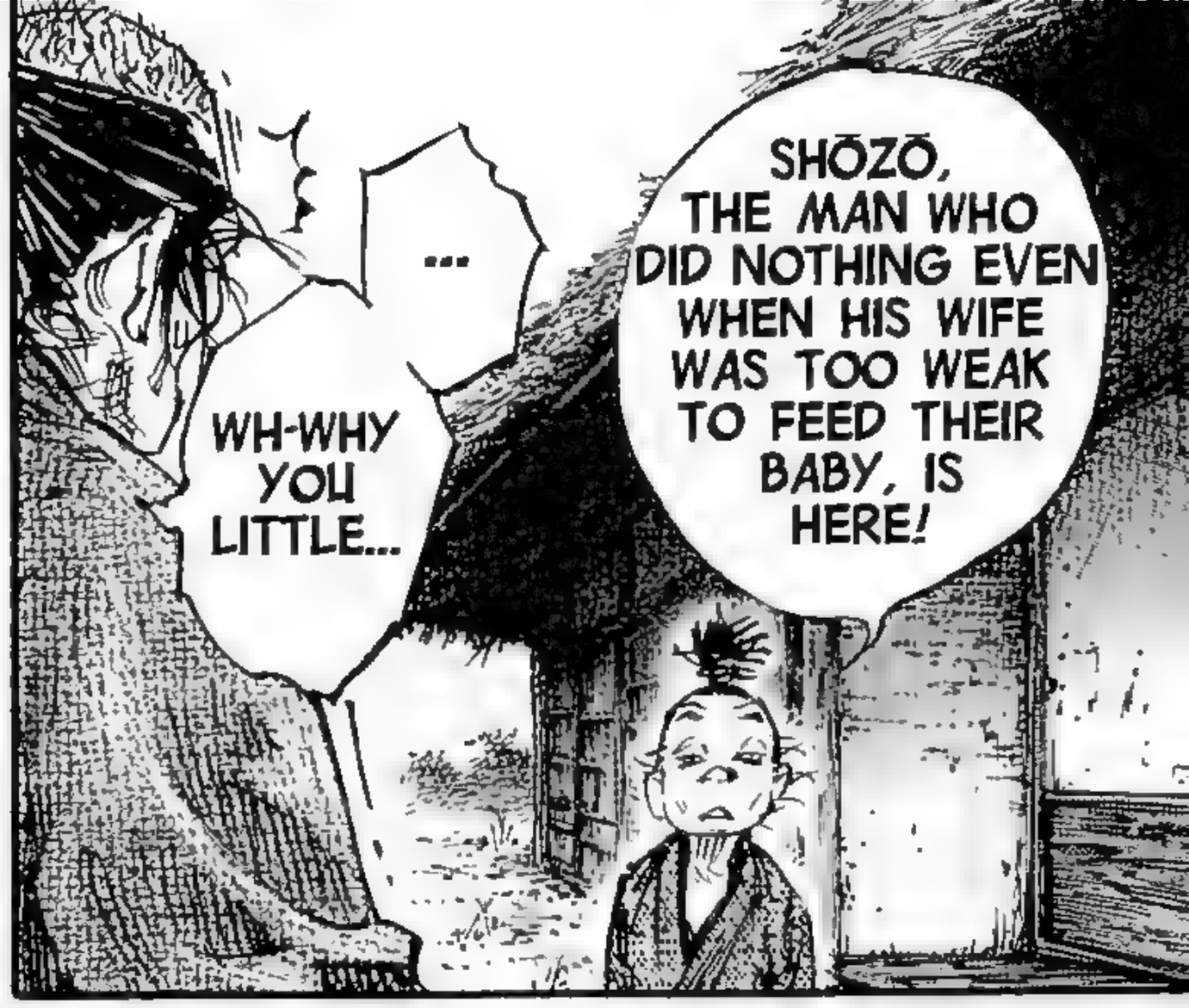
MAYBE THE VILLAGE CAN SURVIVE. THAT'S THE KIND OF...

A DEMON.

NO.
THE ALMIGHTY MIYAMOTO MUSASHI.

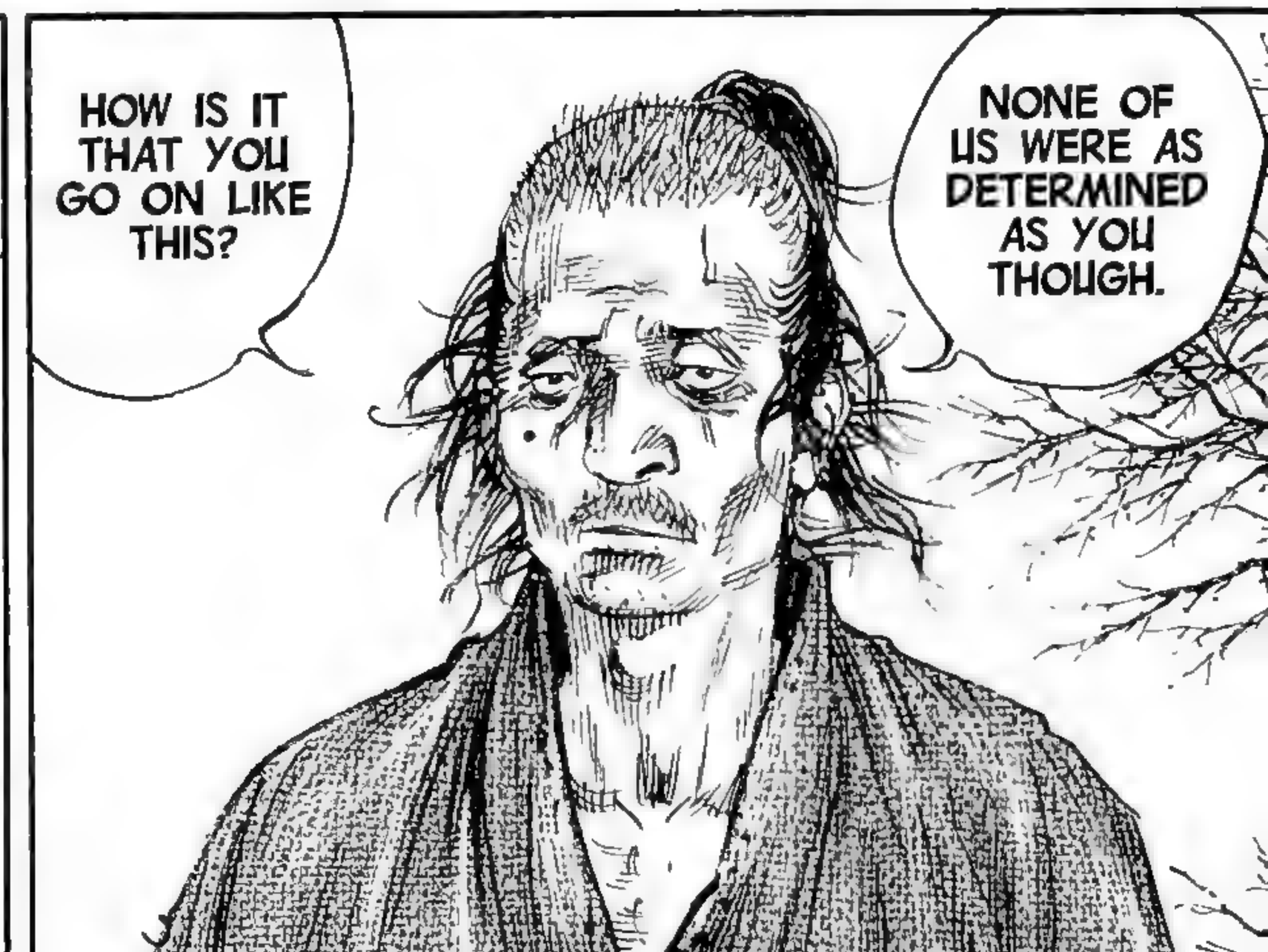
THE SON OF A DEMON.

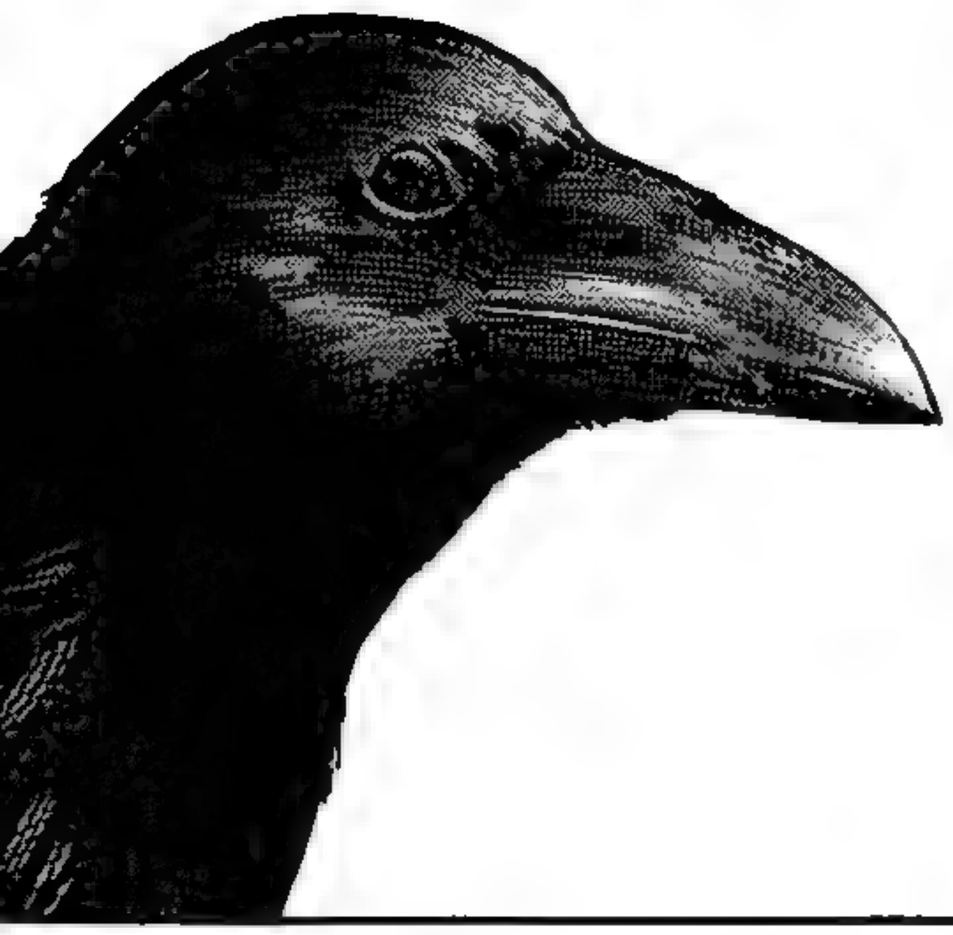
SHŌZŌ.
HM?


...
WH-WHY YOU LITTLE...
SHŌZŌ, THE MAN WHO DID NOTHING EVEN WHEN HIS WIFE WAS TOO WEAK TO FEED THEIR BABY, IS HERE!

...BUT WE FAILED.
WE TRIED TO PLOW THIS LAND OVER AND OVER...
MUSASHI...
...WASHED IT ALL AWAY.
WE GAVE UP AFTER THE FLOOD...
IF WE PLANT THEM, THE CROP WON'T GROW.
WE COULDN'T GET THE PADDY FIELDS TO FLOOD RIGHT.

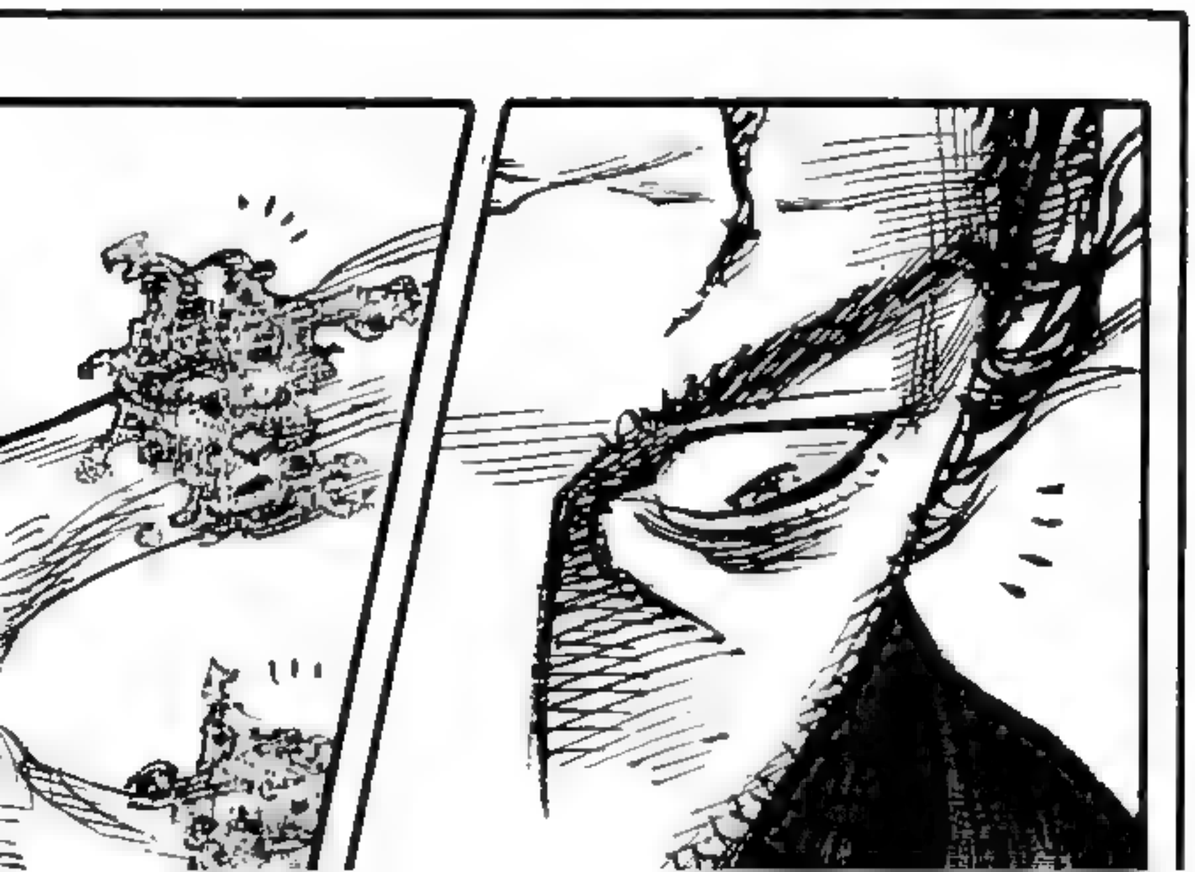
THAT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE!
I CAN'T REALLY SPARE THE TIME FOR A PHILO-SOPHICAL DISCUSSION.
I WANT TO HELP.


HOW IS IT THAT YOU GO ON LIKE THIS?
NONE OF US WERE AS DETERMINED AS YOU THOUGH.

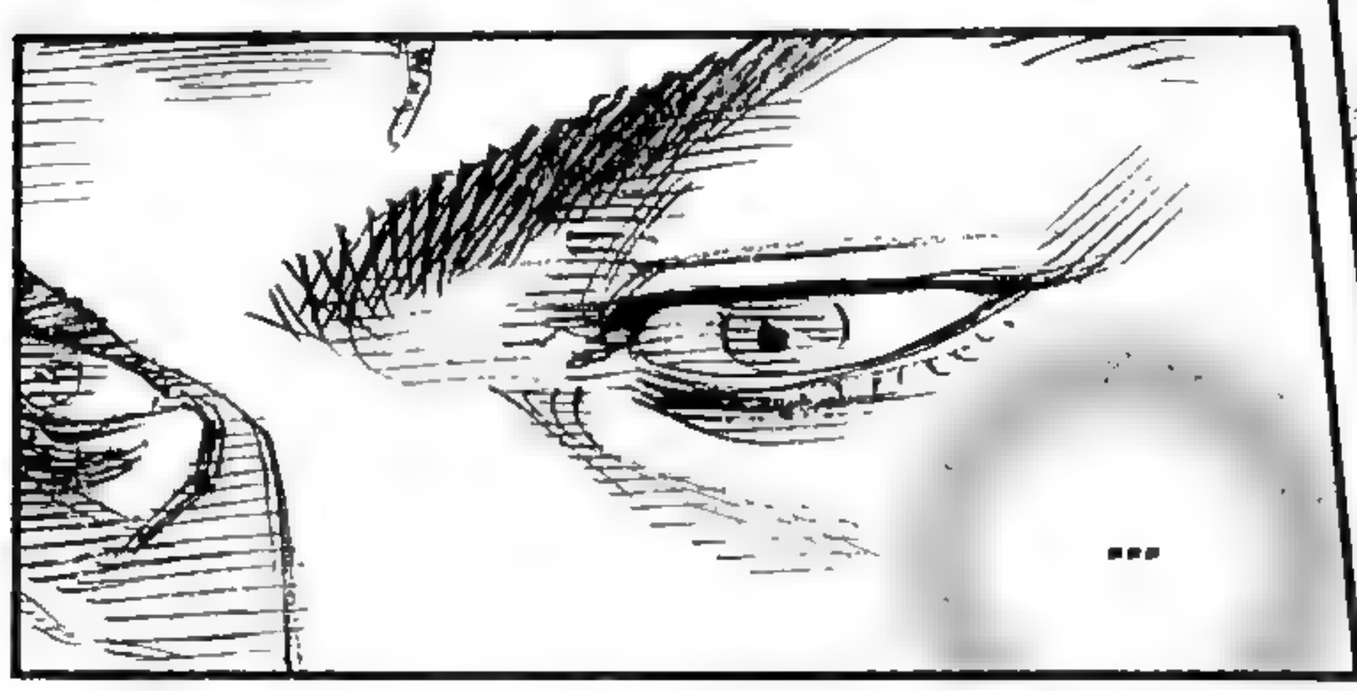


LET ME TRY ONCE AGAIN...
LET ME TRY...

FWP
SSH

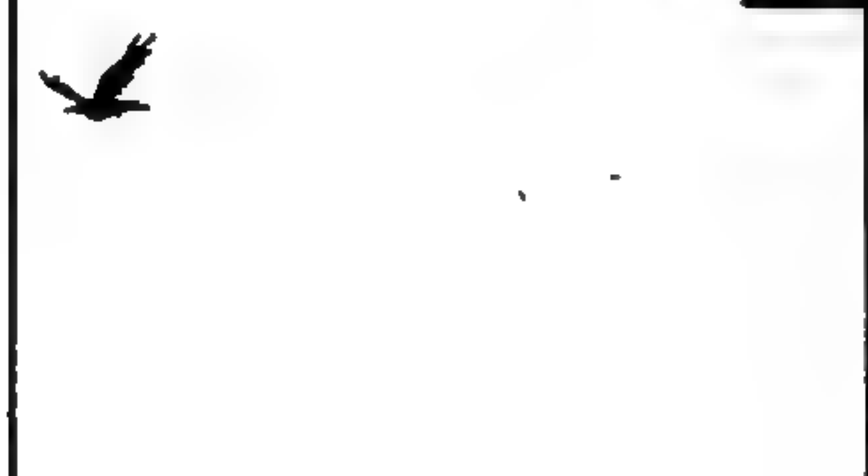


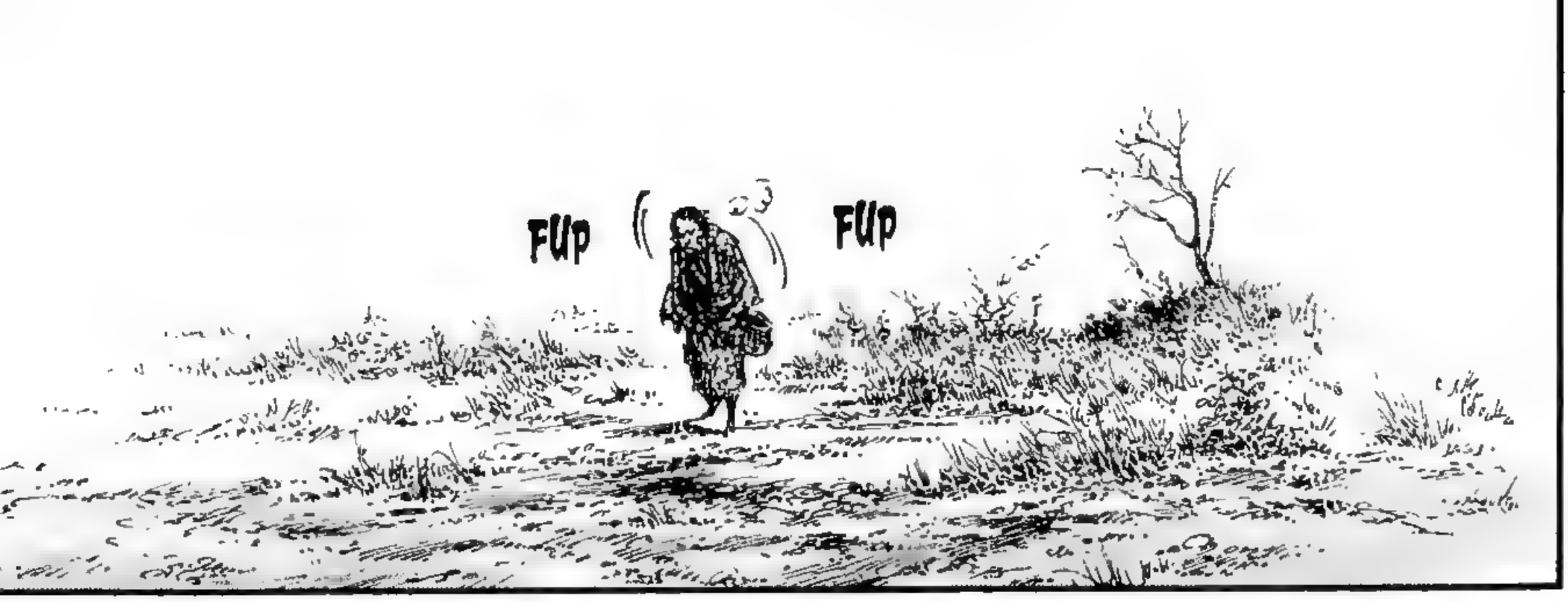
FWOOSH


...

...

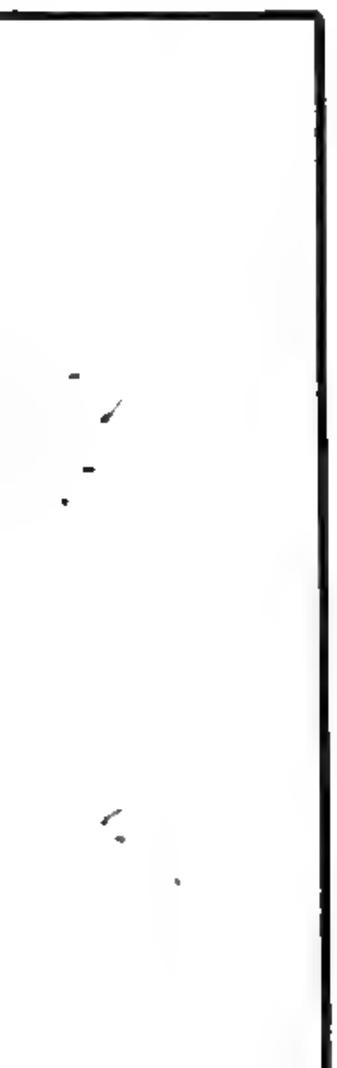
FWISH

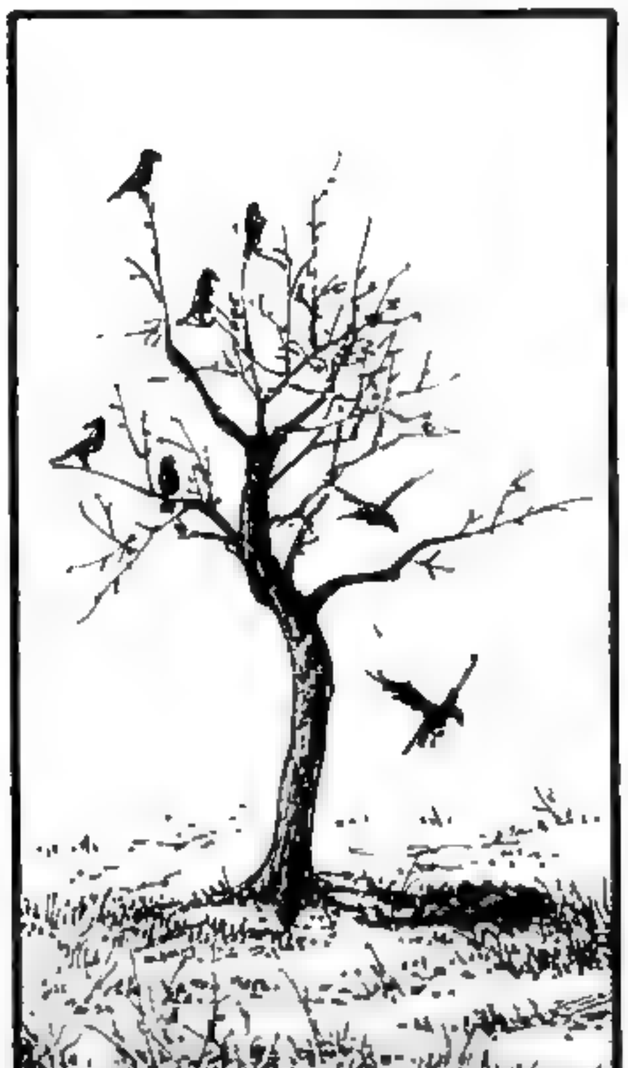



FUP
FUP

I WISH I COULD REACH UP THERE...
I'M STARV-ING...

...





SHŪSAKU...

I CAN NURSE MY BABY.

THANK YOU, SHŪSAKU.

FICH

FICH

THANK YOU!

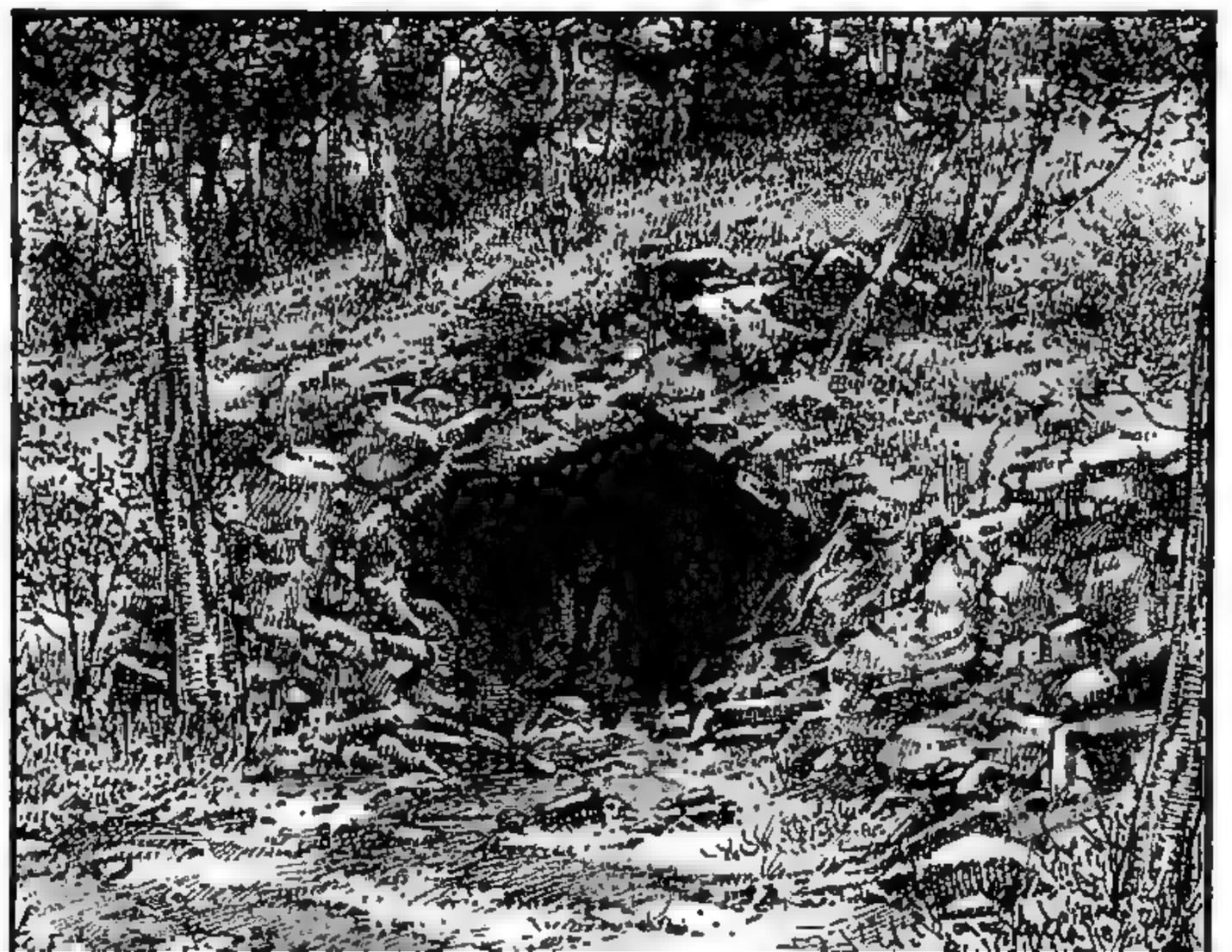
THIS WON'T DO.

WE STILL GOT ALL THESE ROCKS, MUSASHI.

HM

THE CAVE.

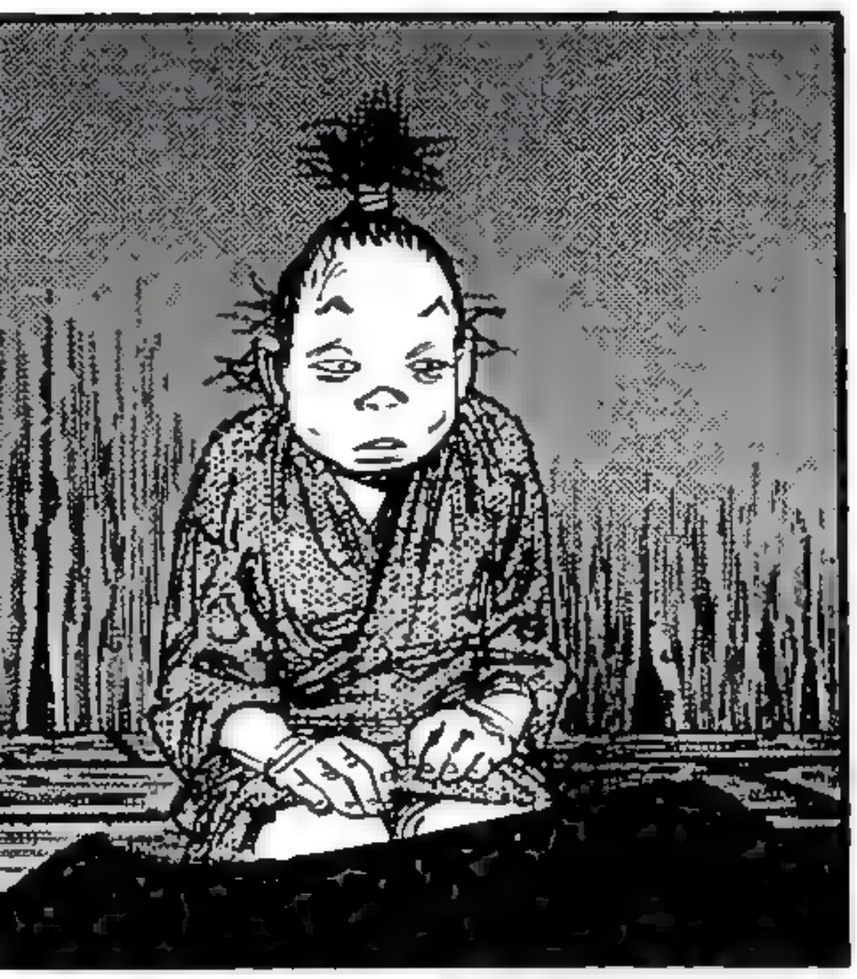
I SEE IT.



I JUST THOUGHT I HAD TO BE STRONG.

I DON'T EVEN RECALL HOW THE THOUGHT OCCURRED TO ME.

I FORGOT ABOUT IT COMPLETELY.



I FELT IT THOUGH...
...LYING ON THE SOIL...

I'LL BE ONE WITH THE LAND.

I'M NOT GIVING UP.

...

...?!

...DIFFERENT.

THE SOIL FEELS...

MORE FROM THE "REMEMBERING THE 'UNMEMORABLE' VILLAGERS" SERIES.

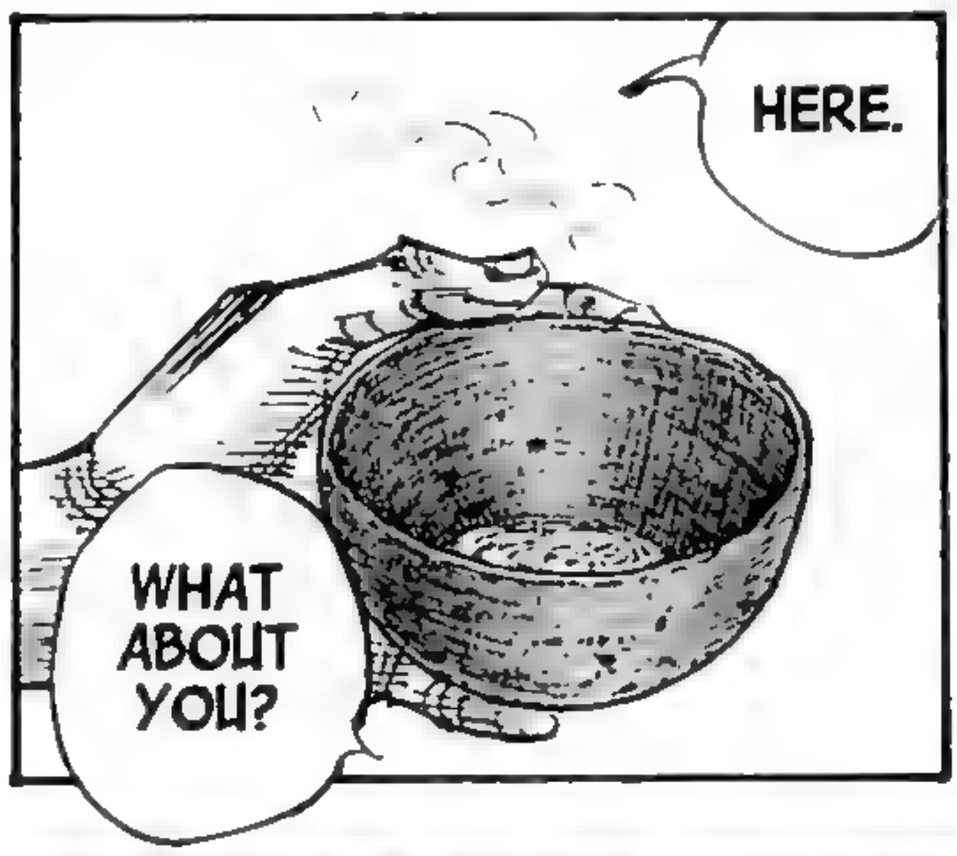
おぼえにくい 村人たちを
おぼえてみよう シリーズ

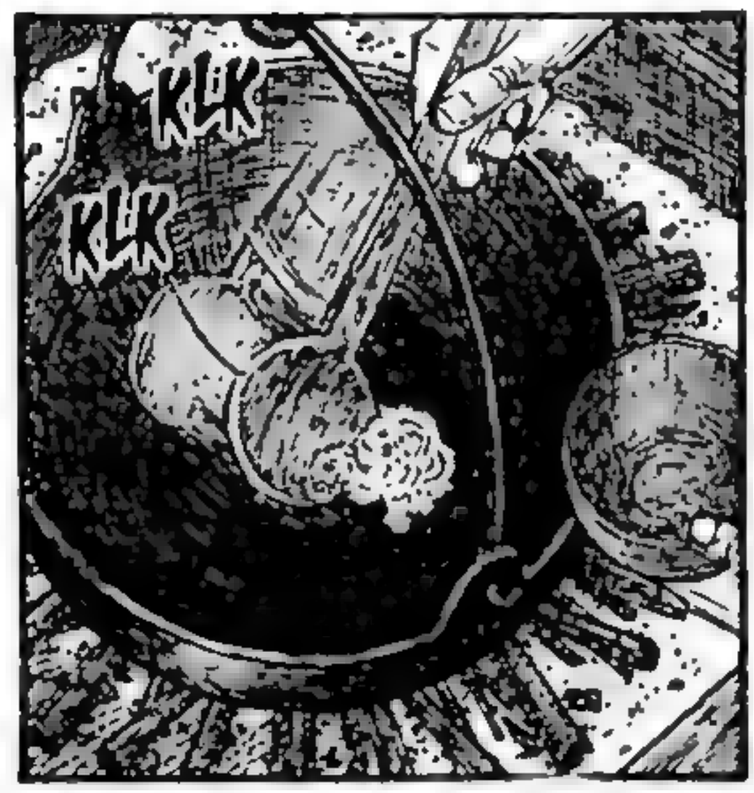
HM?
THE SOIL FEELS DIFFERENT.
HEY...
...
IT'S MORE SOFT...
...AND FLUFFY.

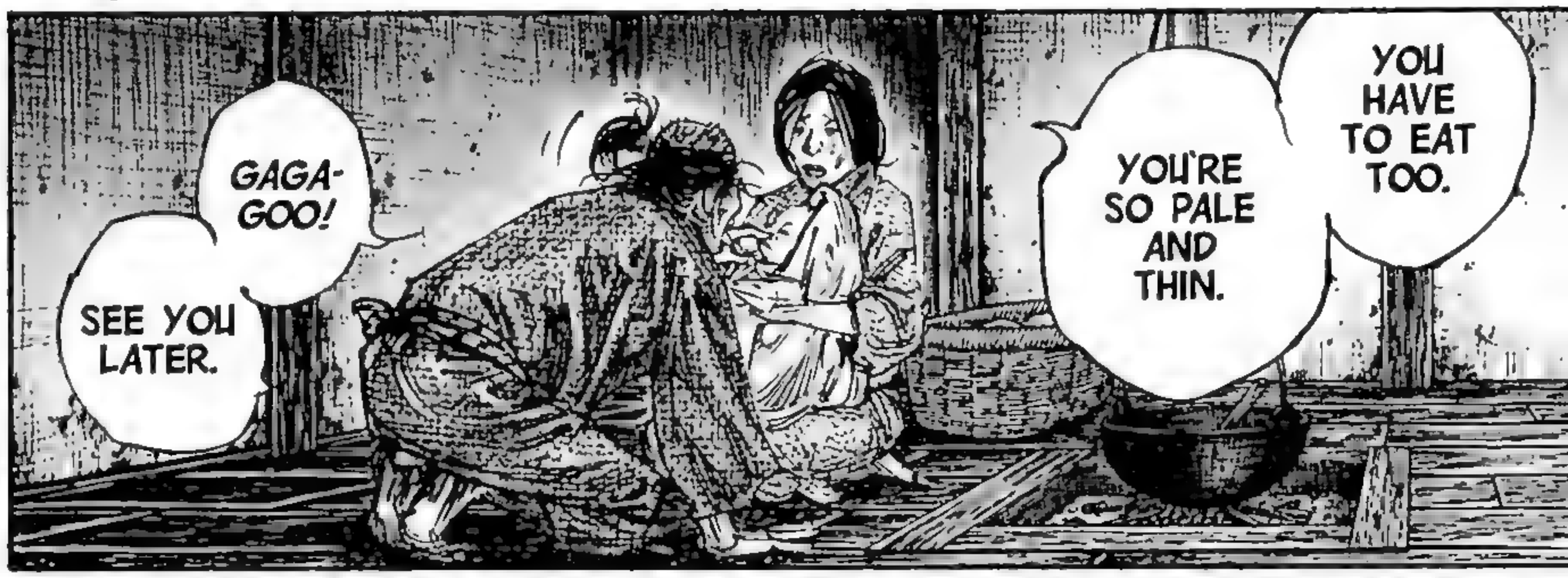
#312 Rice Field of Fools

GOOD.
YES.
THERE'S A BIT MORE. HAVE IT.

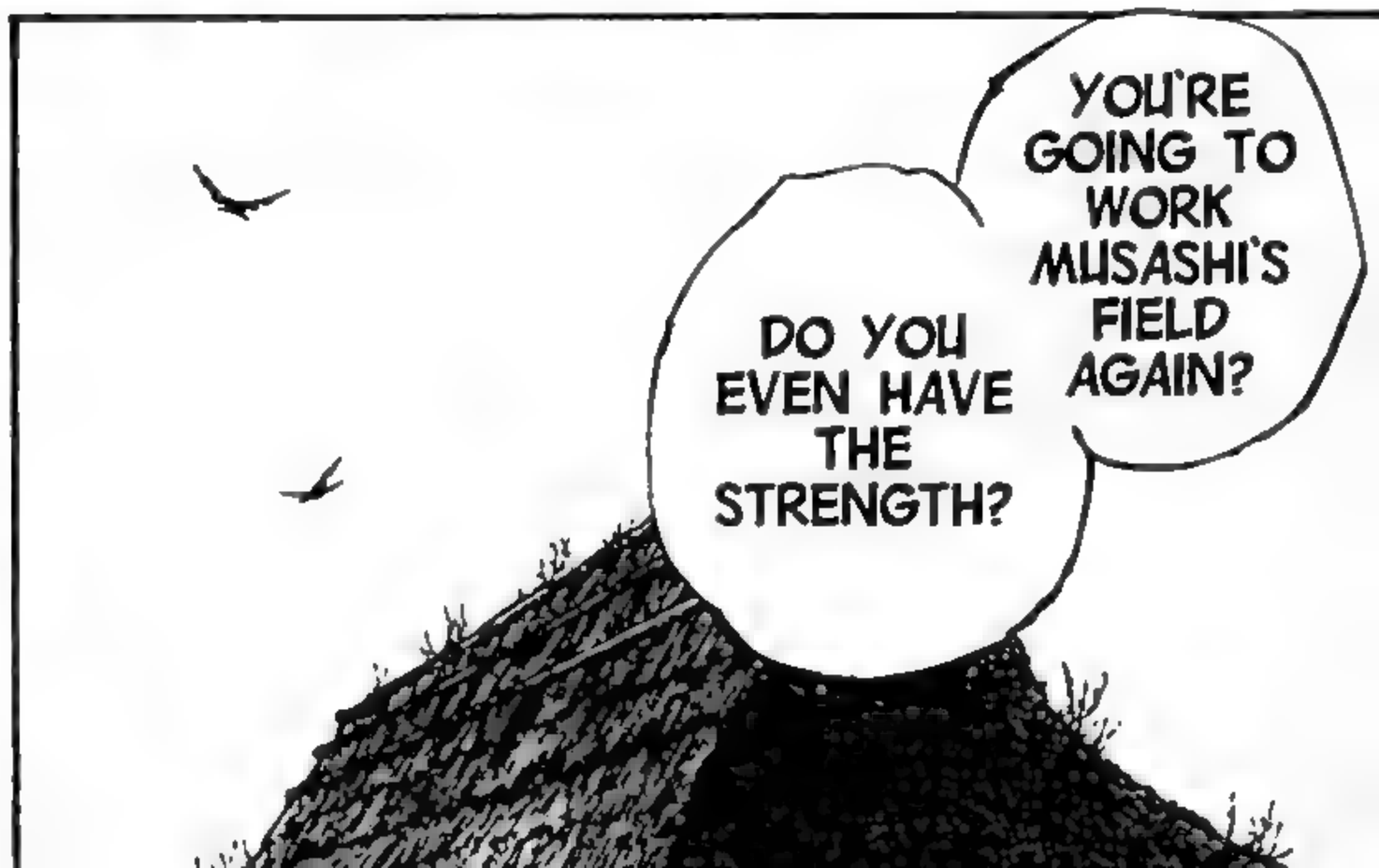
ARE YOU STILL ABLE TO NURSE?

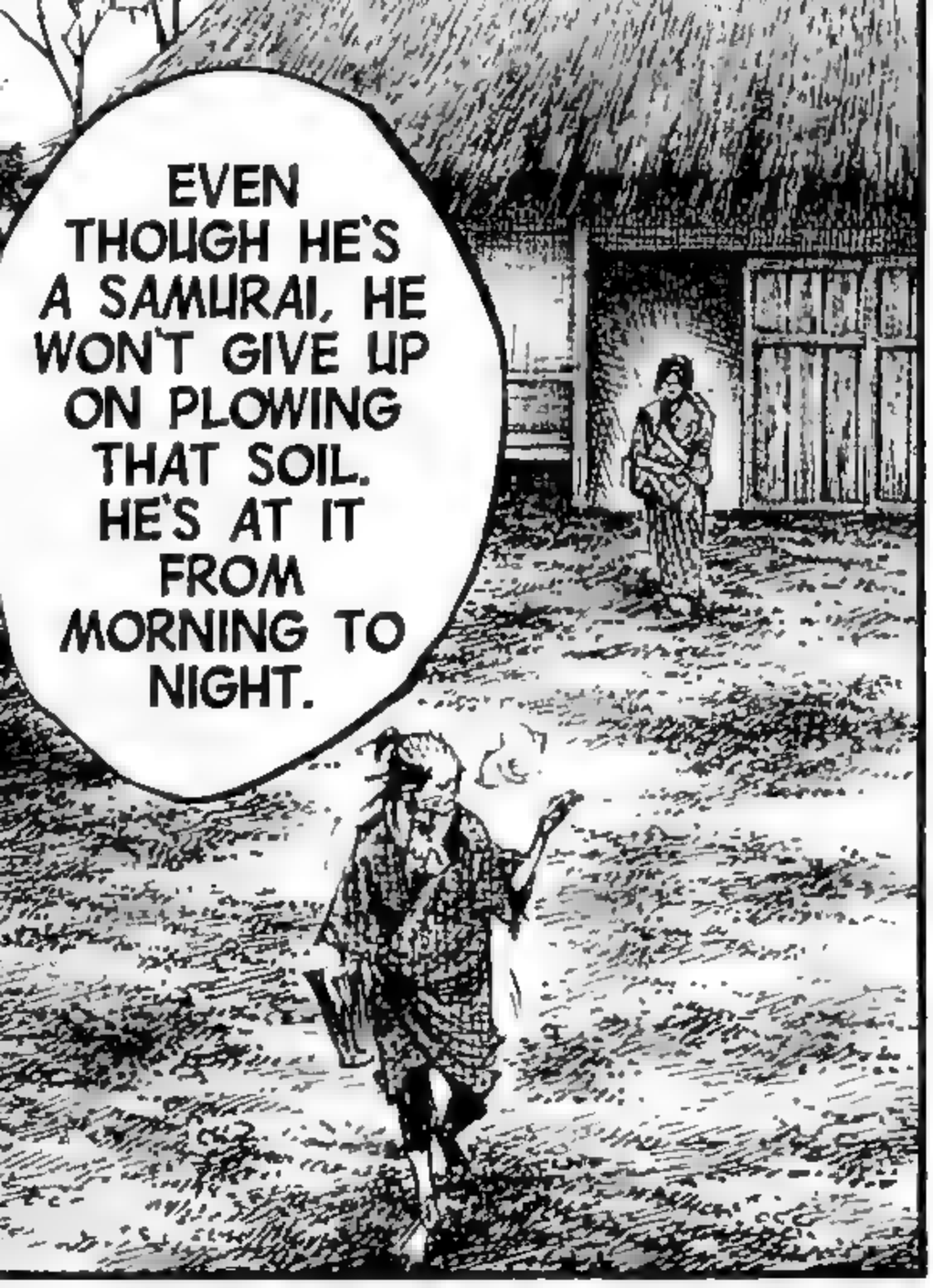

HERE.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?


KLK
KLK

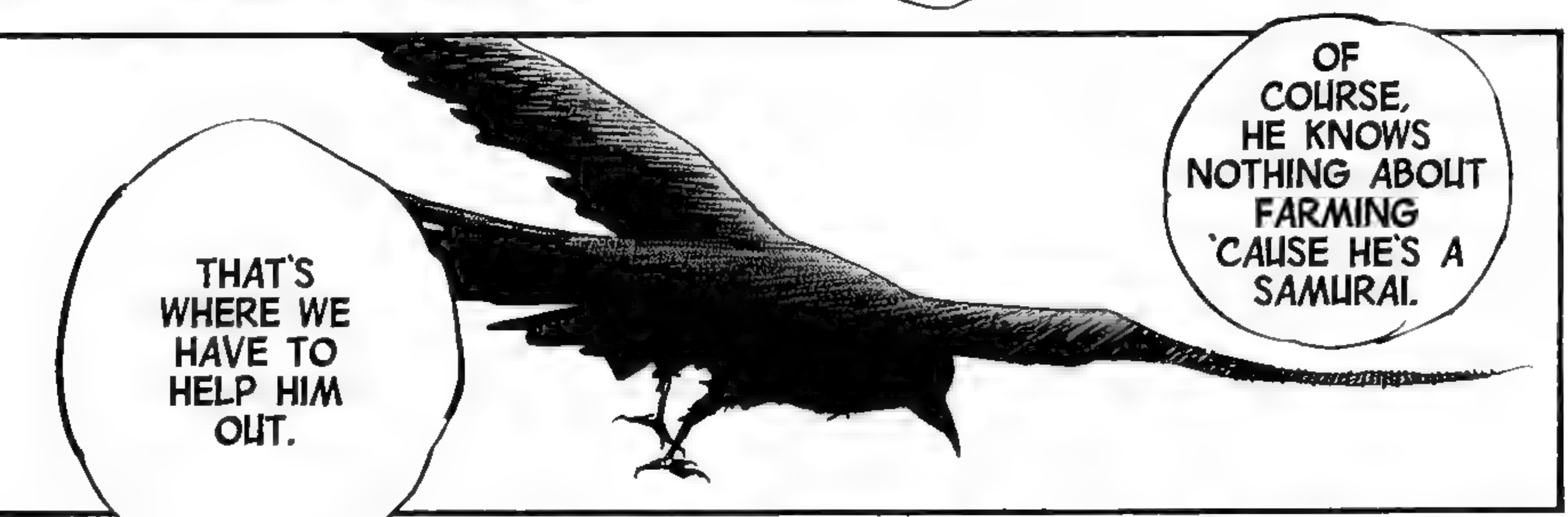

GAGA-GOO!
SEE YOU LATER.
YOU'RE SO PALE AND THIN.
YOU HAVE TO EAT TOO.

YEAH...


DO YOU EVEN HAVE THE STRENGTH?
YOU'RE GOING TO WORK MUSASHI'S FIELD AGAIN?


EVEN THOUGH HE'S A SAMURAI, HE WON'T GIVE UP ON PLOWING THAT SOIL. HE'S AT IT FROM MORNING TO NIGHT.

THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT THAT MAN.
THIS STRANGE POWER FLOWS OUT FROM HIM...


OF COURSE, HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT FARMING 'CAUSE HE'S A SAMURAI.
THAT'S WHERE WE HAVE TO HELP HIM OUT.

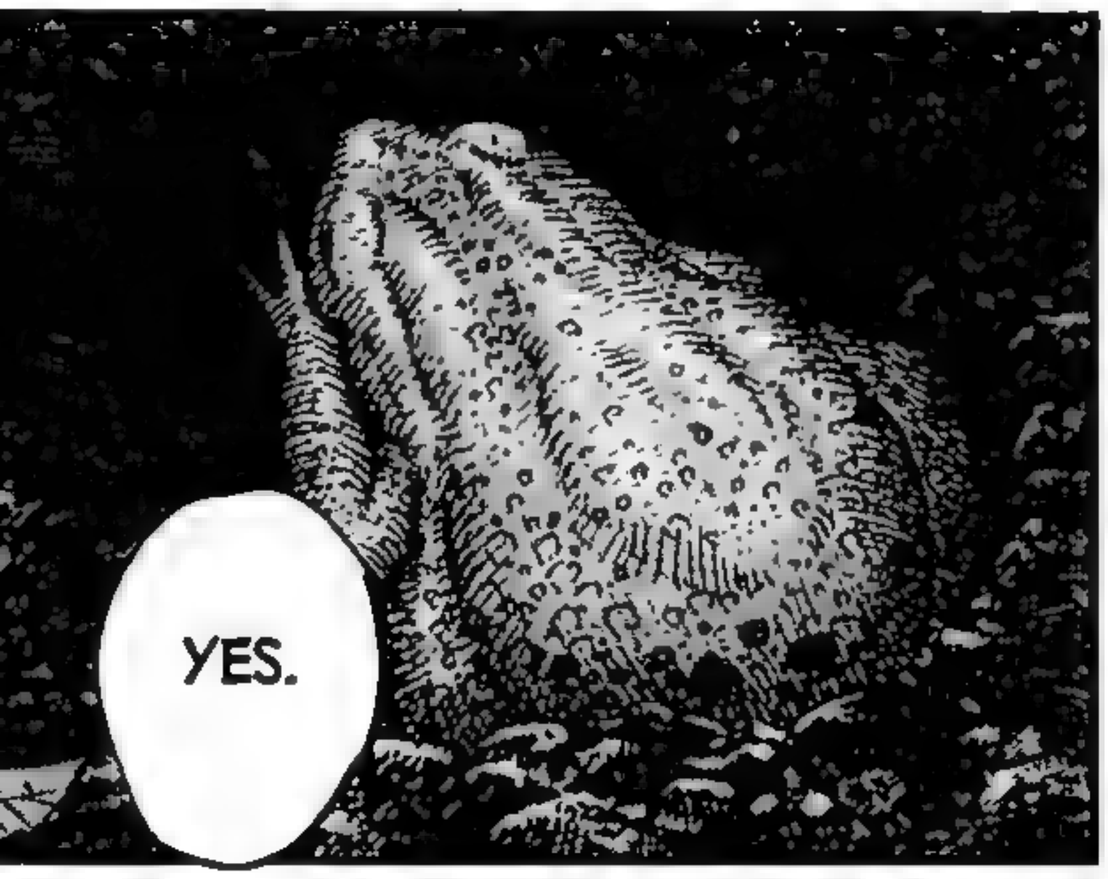
MAYBE WE CAN MAKE RICE FROM THIS FIELD...
I GET THE FEELING IT MIGHT HAPPEN THIS TIME.

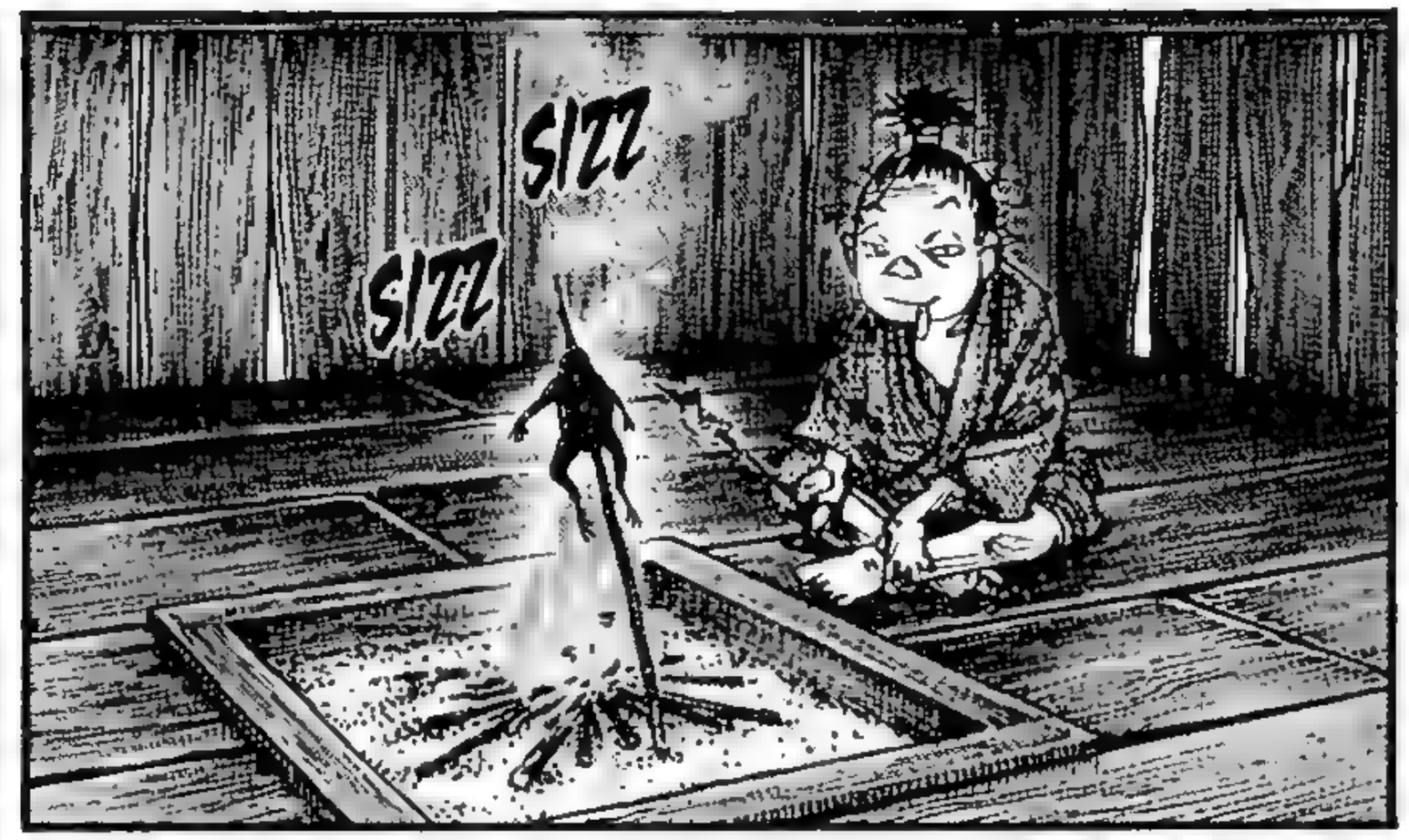
HM?

UH...
HUF HUF
HUF HUF
BY THE FIRE.
WE GOT THE WATER BOILING. LET'S TAKE A REST, MUSASHI.

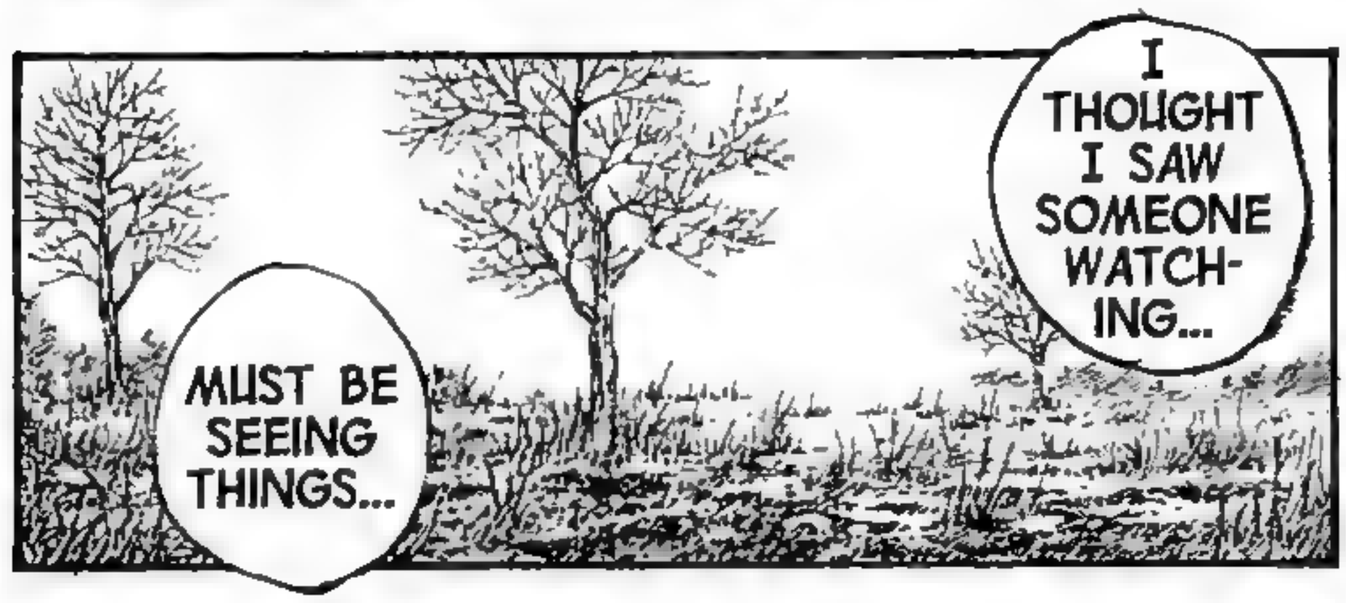
FICH
ALL RIGHT.

FICH


YES.


SIZZ
SIZZ

...


MUST BE SEEING THINGS...
I THOUGHT I SAW SOMEONE WATCH-ING...

WHOA.

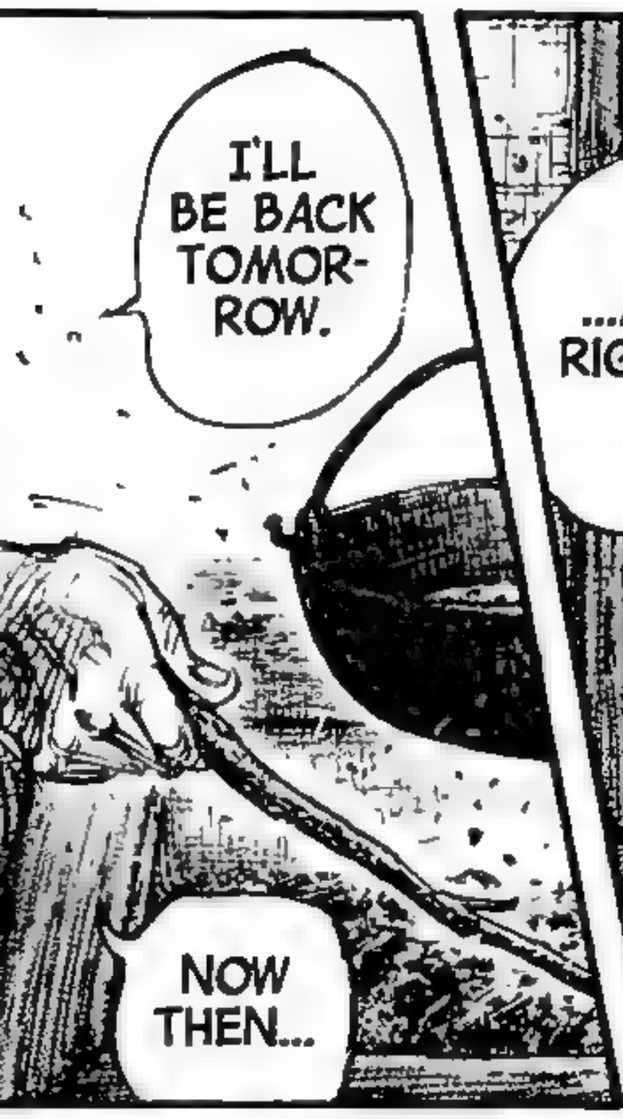
HM?

I NEED TO EAT.

KUŌBĒ?
HEY...

STILL BREATHING, OLD MAN?

UH-OH.
YOU HAVEN'T EATEN ANYTHING.


I'LL BE BACK TOMOR-ROW.
NOW THEN...

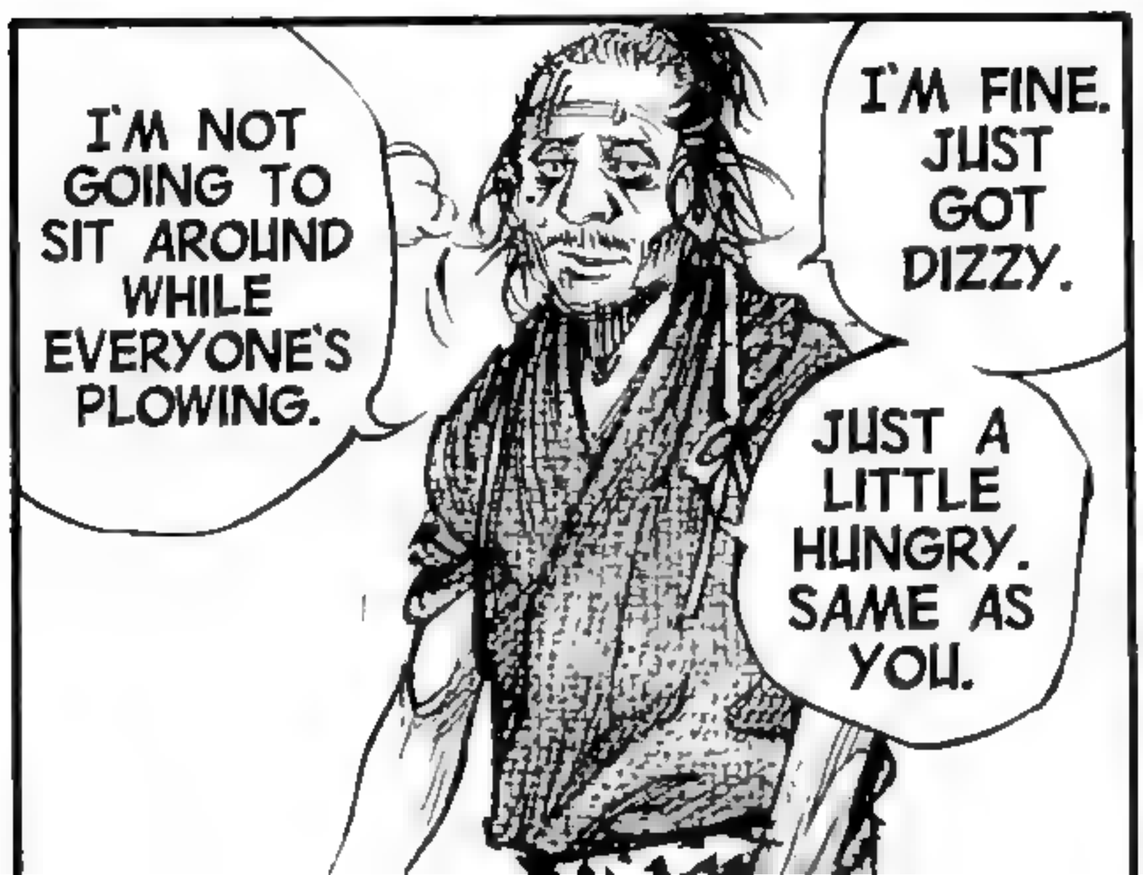
I'M PUTTING IT RIGHT HERE...
...ALL RIGHT?
I DON'T HAVE MUCH, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN NOTHING.

...
SHŌSAKU ...

...TIME TO CHECK ON THE RICE FIELD OF THOSE FOOLS.

FICH

HM?
PRECIOUS SEEDS.
WE HAVE TO PLANT SOMETHING WE CAN HARVEST QUICKLY.
WE SHOULD TRY THIS PART OF THE FIELD.
I BROUGHT SOME SEED POTATOES.


I'M NOT GOING TO SIT AROUND WHILE EVERYONE'S PLOWING.
I'M FINE. JUST GOT DIZZY.
JUST A LITTLE HUNGRY. SAME AS YOU.

TUGG

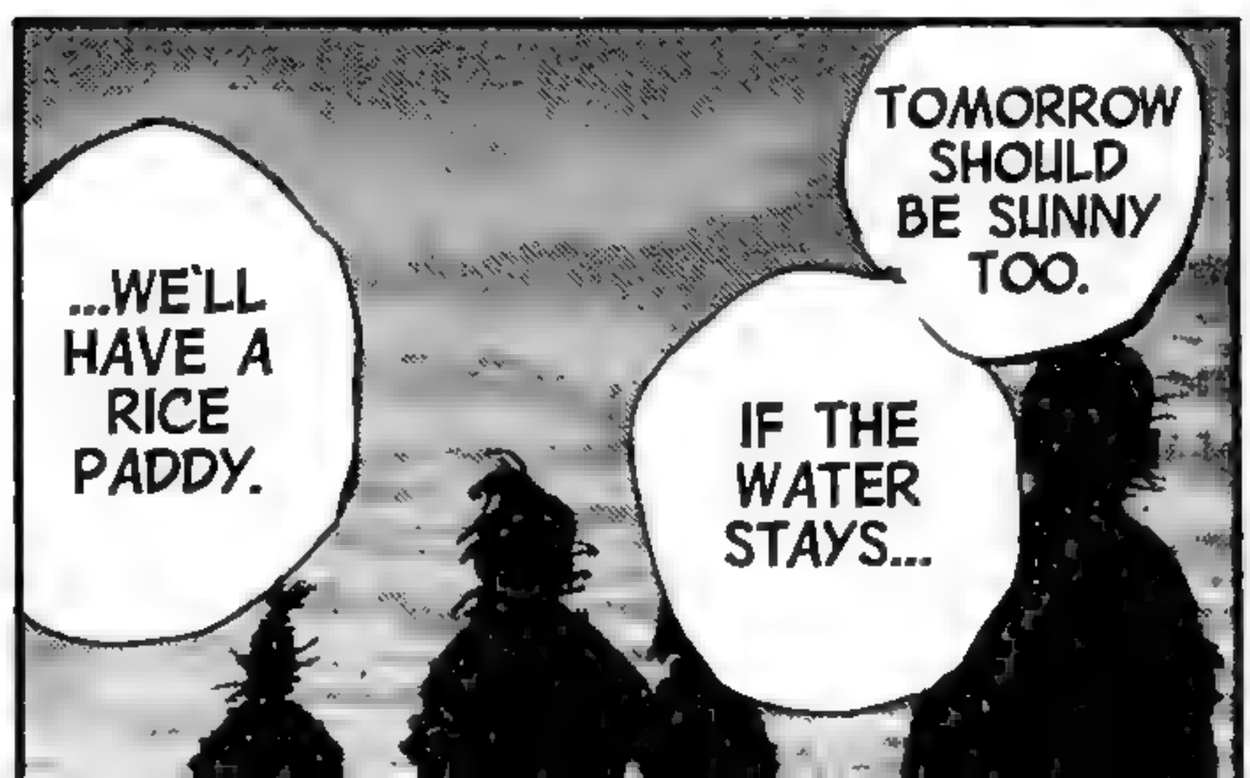
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SHŌZŌ?

ALL RIGHT.
LET'S FLOOD THE FIELD.
...
GULPP
...

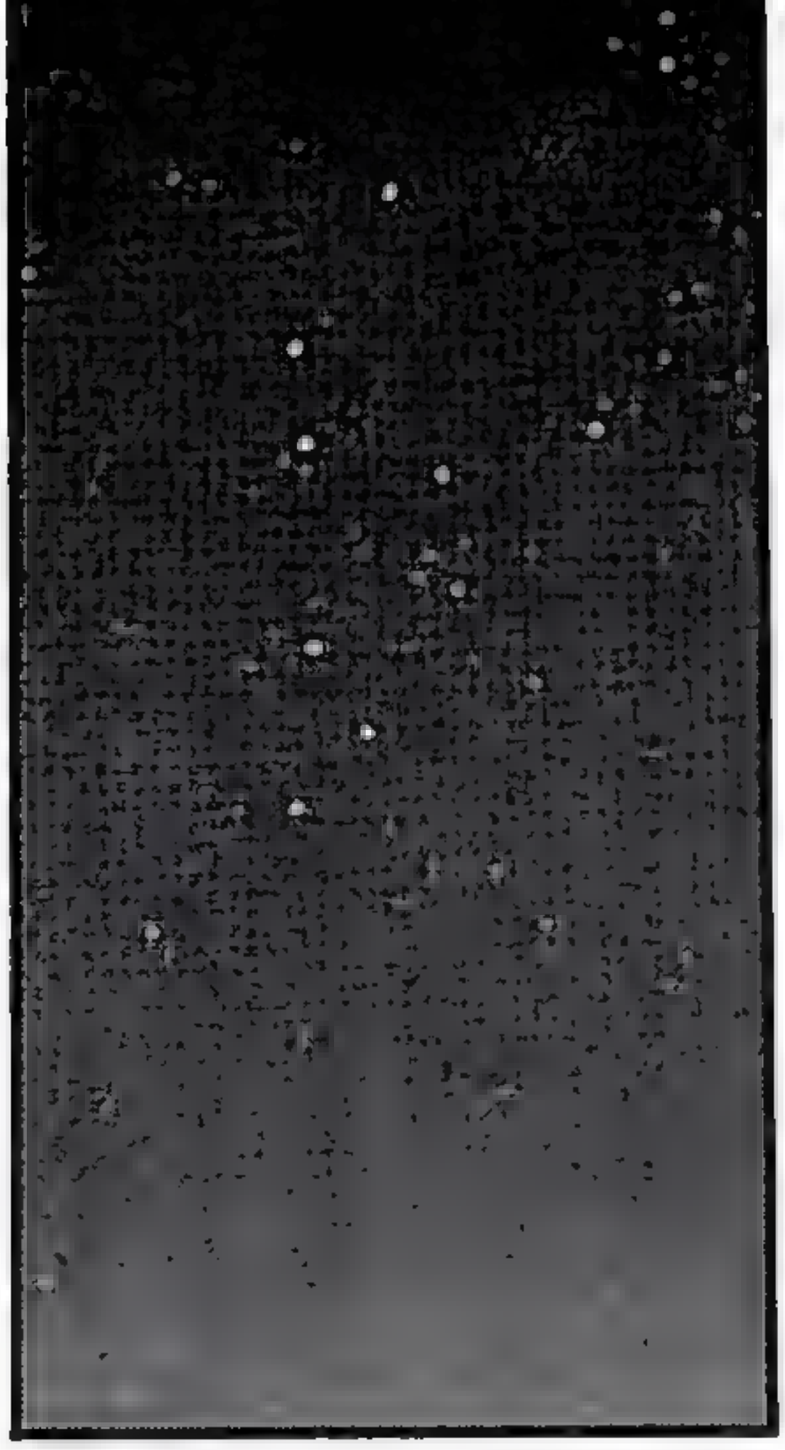
GLUGG

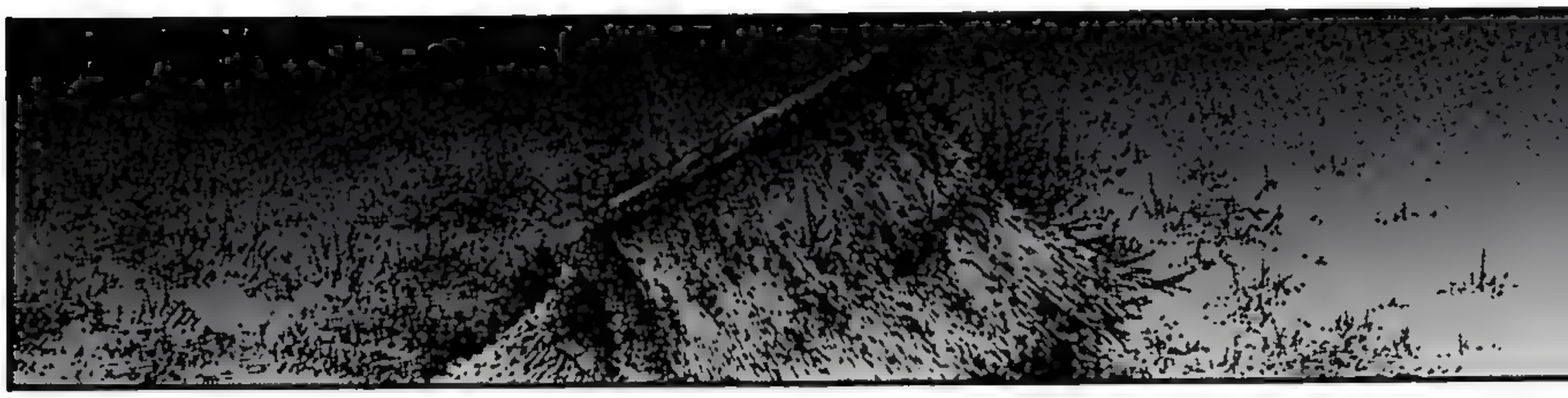
GLUGG

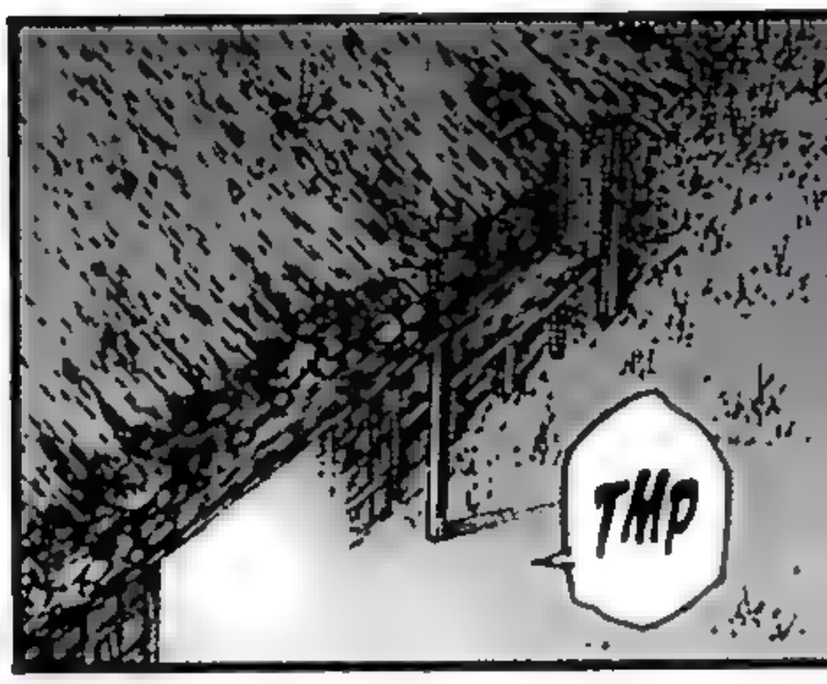
GLUGG

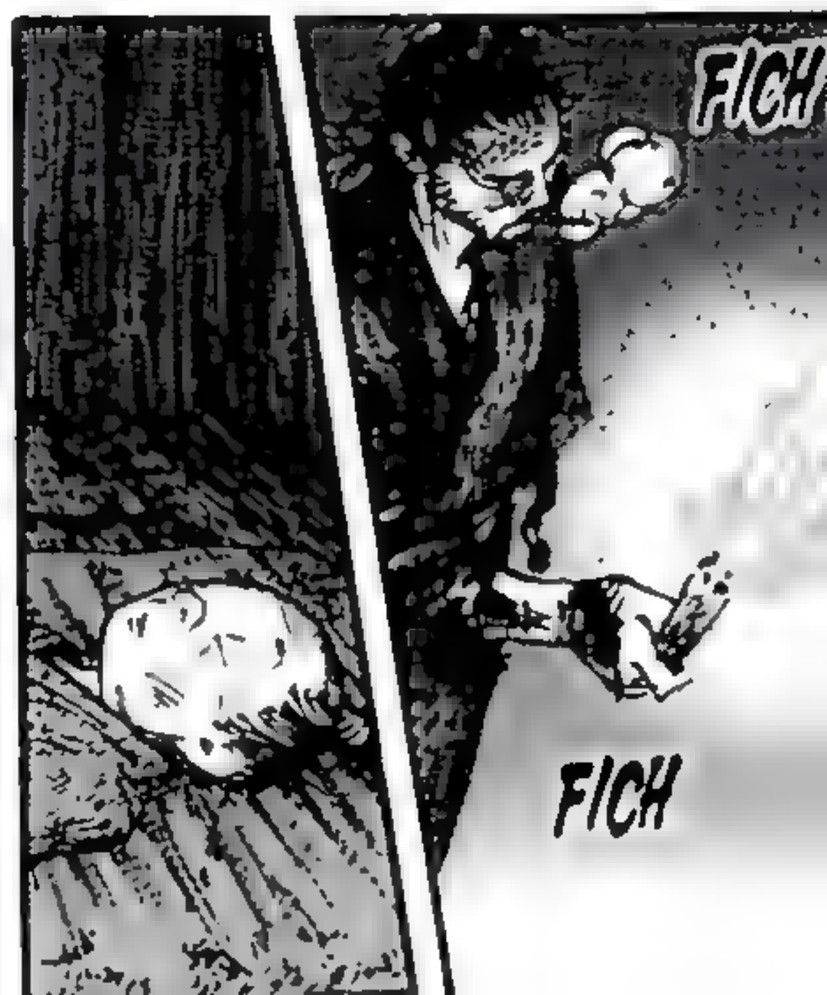


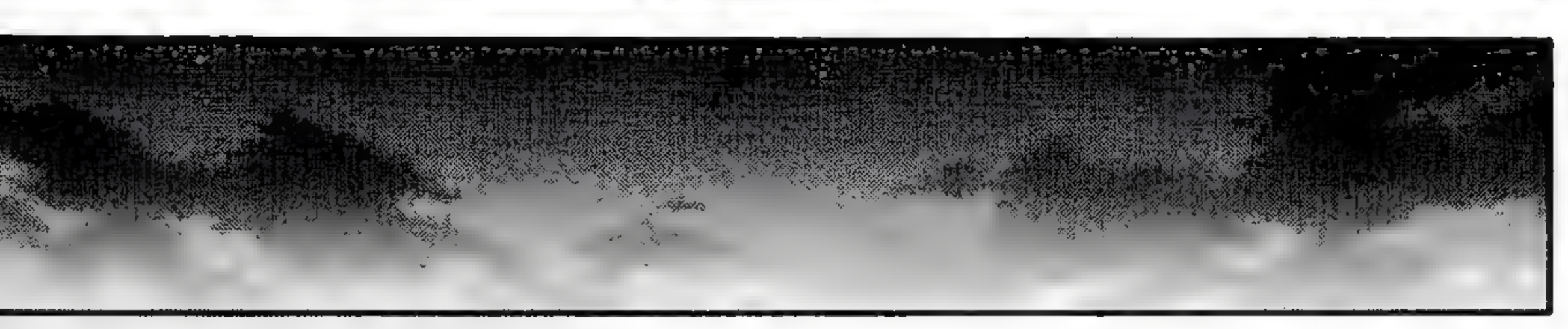
WE'LL BE ABLE TO PLANT HERE IN THE SPRING.

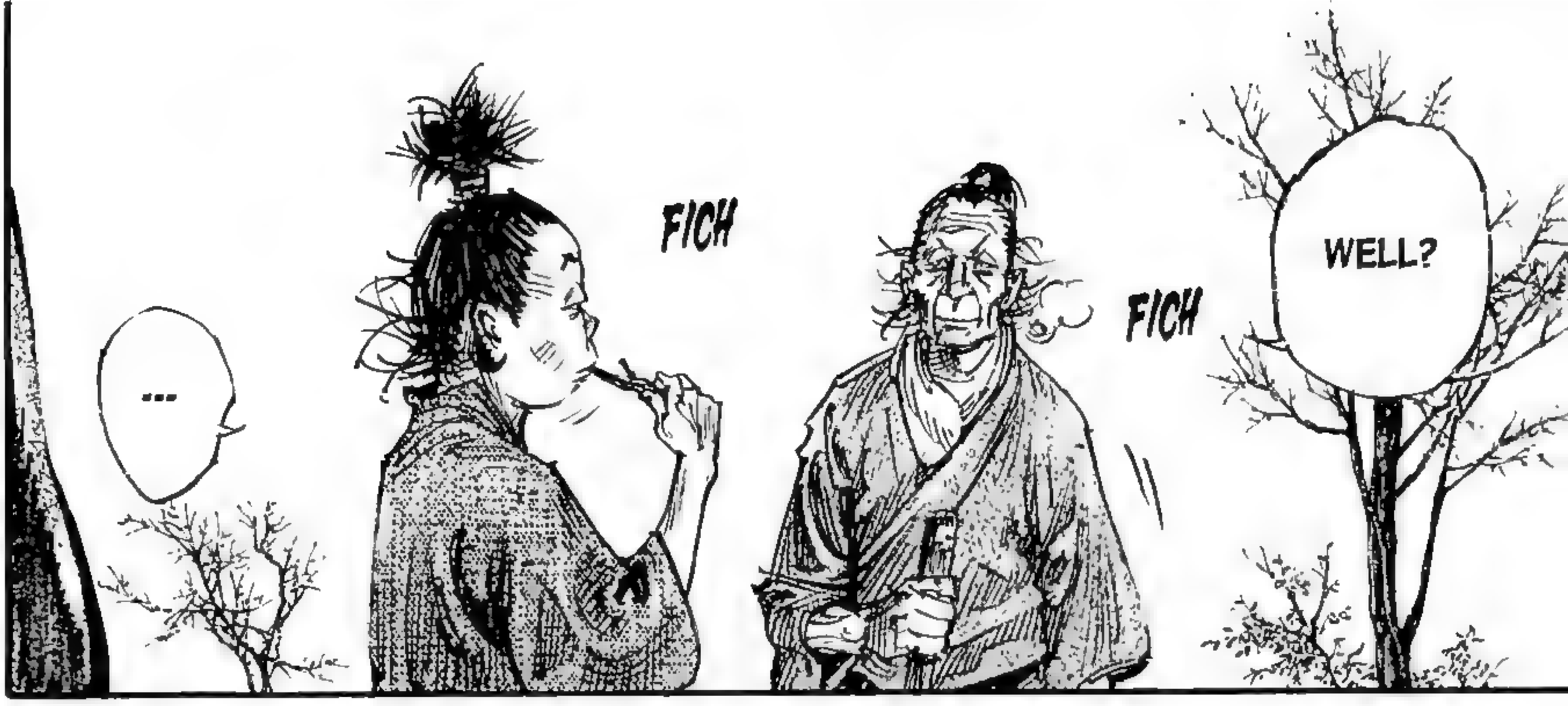





THP


FICH
FICH

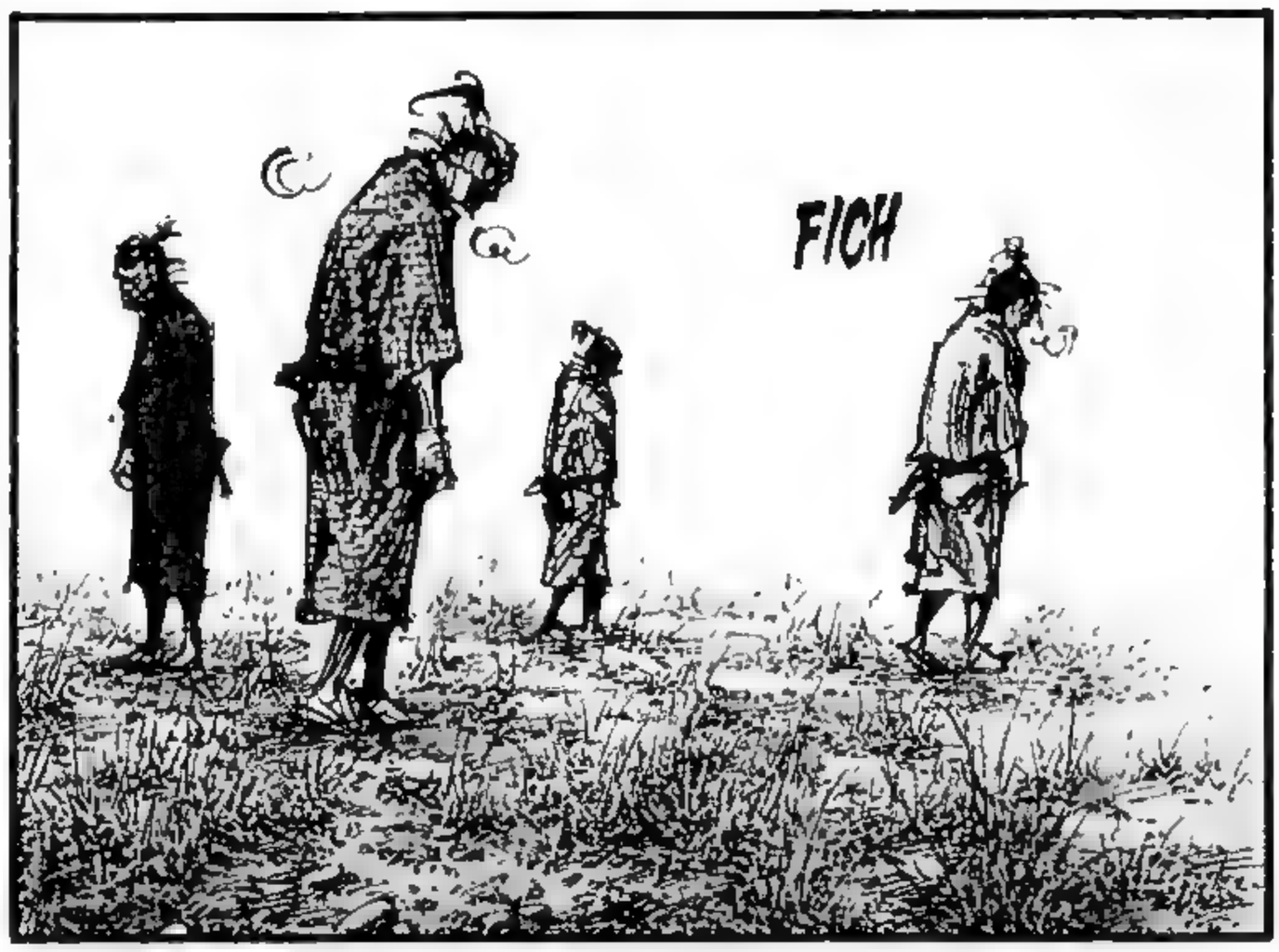



...
FICH
FICH
WELL?

NO GOOD...

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. GIVE IT UP.

THIS ISN'T YOUR BURDEN TO BEAR.



EVER FLEETING...

TO GET CUT DOWN ON THE DAY SOMETHING HAPPENS TO GO WRONG.

TO BE THE STRONGEST.

WIN, LOSE...

LET'S RETURN TO THAT WORLD.

FOOP

FIP
FIP

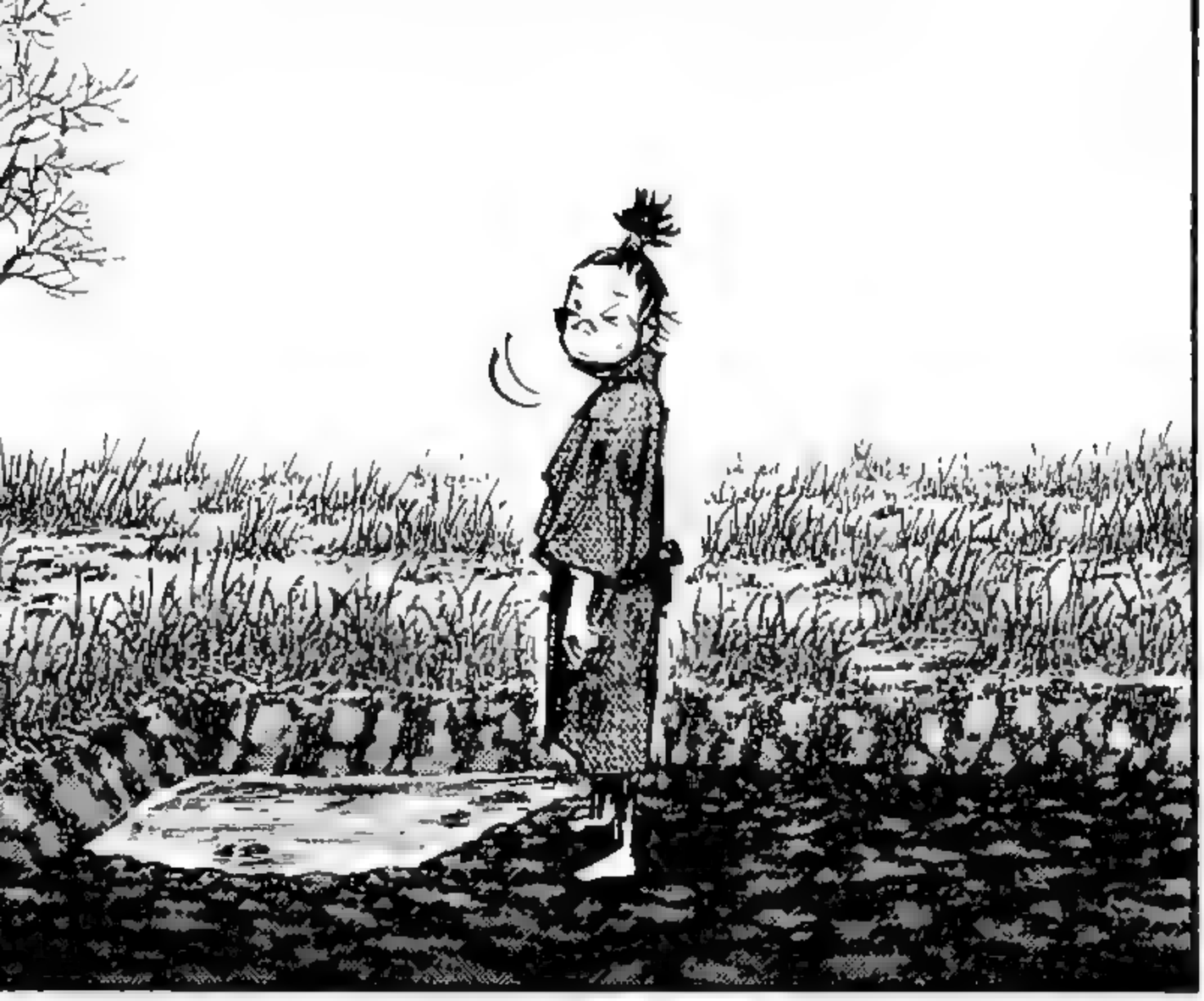
AHAHA!
DAMN IT ALL!

GRB
STOP IT, GONZO.
HEY!

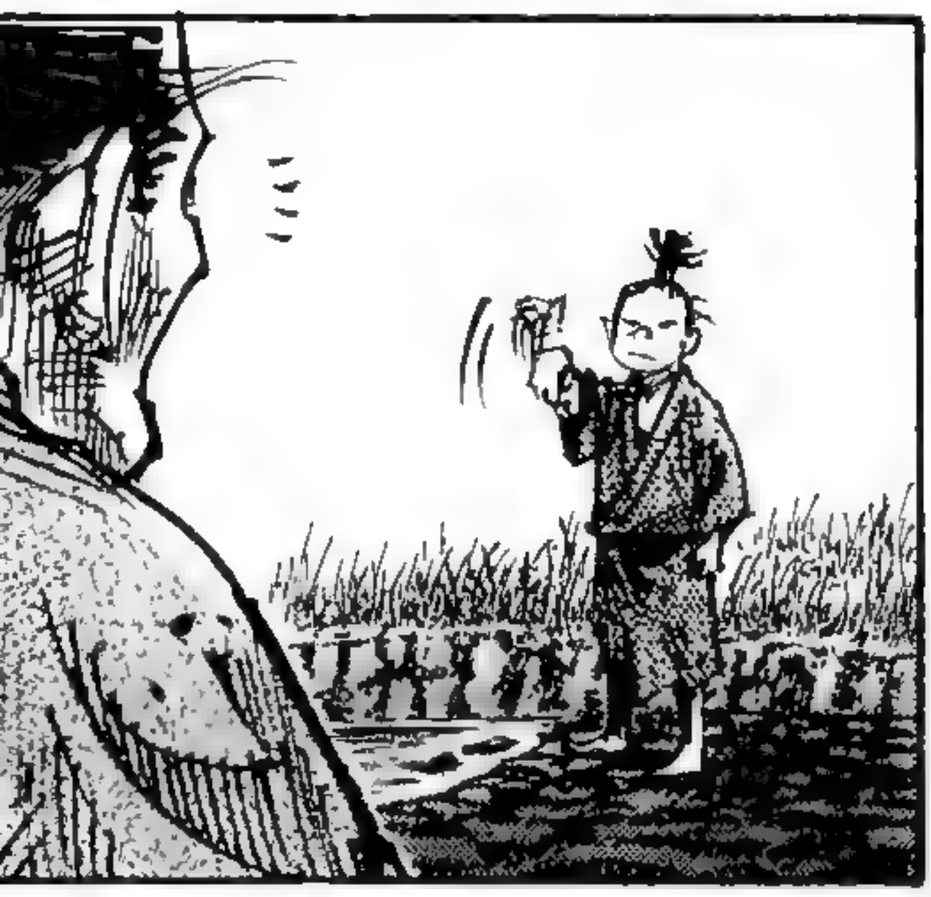
!!

STOP IT!

I CAN'T BEAR THE SIGHT OF THIS ANYMORE!
I JUST WANT MY KIDS TO HAVE SOMETHING TO EAT.
LET GO, SHOZO!



...



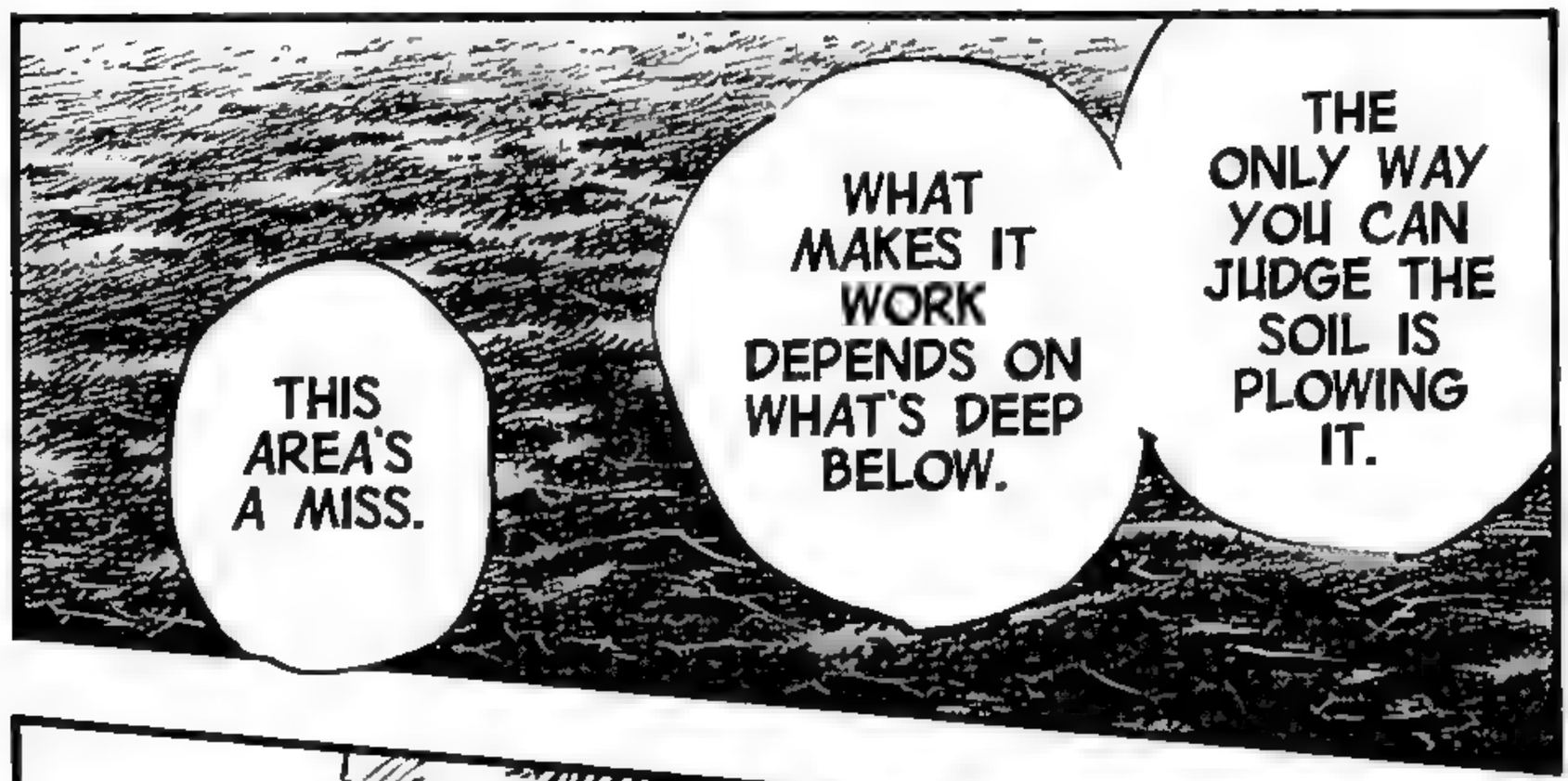
HM... WHAT'S IORI UP TO?

THIS HERE.
THE PUDDLE WAS HERE LAST TIME TOO.

IORI...

...?

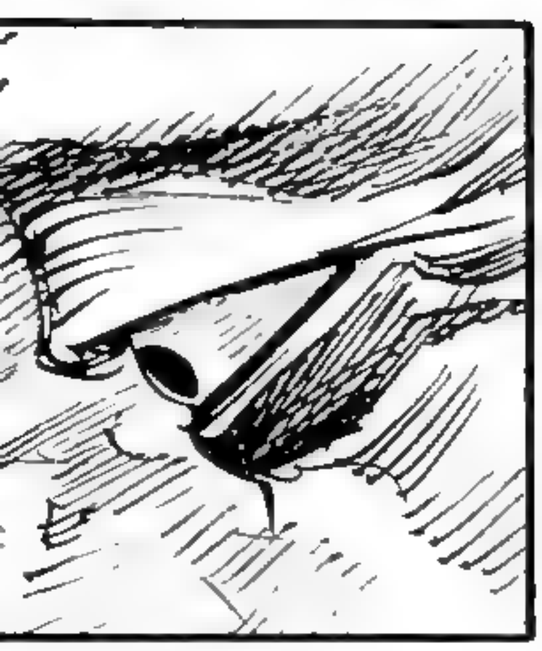
UH...
IT JUST SEEMED RIGHT.
WHY DID MUSASHI CHOOSE THIS AREA IN THE FIRST PLACE?

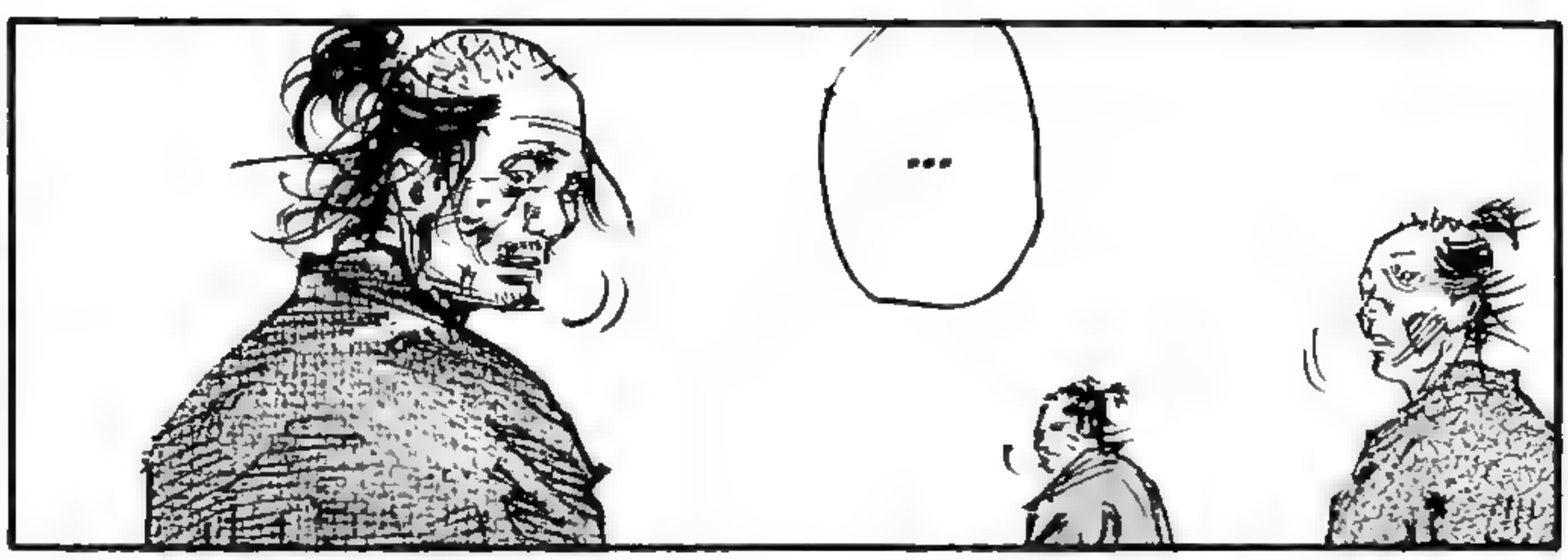

THIS AREA'S A MISS.
WHAT MAKES IT WORK DEPENDS ON WHAT'S DEEP BELOW.
THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN JUDGE THE SOIL IS PLOWING IT.

BUT LOOK OVER HERE.

YOU MISSED.
?

THE WATER HASN'T DRAINED.
DID YOU NOT NOTICE THIS, MUSASHI?
IT MUST HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS.



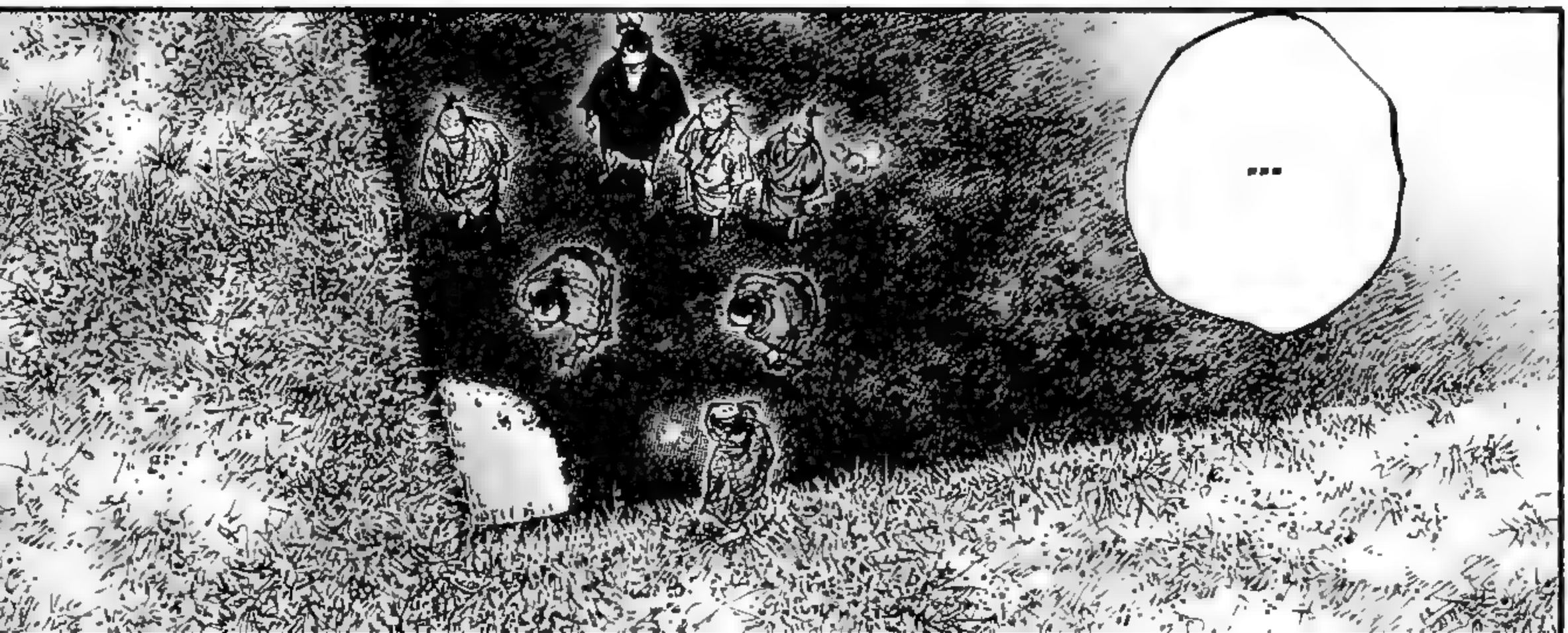

...

...THIS IS THE RIGHT SPOT...
IT'S SMALL BUT...

...!!

WHAT...

WHAT DID YOU SAY?



...AND SPREAD INTO THE UNPLOWED AREA OVER HERE...

YOU HAVE TO EXTEND THIS PUDDLE CAREFULLY...

...GOT THAT?

FWM
SOME-THING TO EAT!
ALL RIGHT, LATER.

I FOUND IT.
GIVE ME A RE-WARD.
HM?

THAT'S RIGHT.

...
BUT THIS MEANS...WE HAVE TO START ALL OVER AGAIN...

START FROM THE BEGIN-NING...
AND THERE'S NO TIME TO DRAG YOUR FEET. WINTER'LL SOON BE HERE.
CAN YOU DO THAT?

FICH

FWICH

FICH

HOPE, ON THE VERGE OF VANISHING...

FICH

YAHAH!

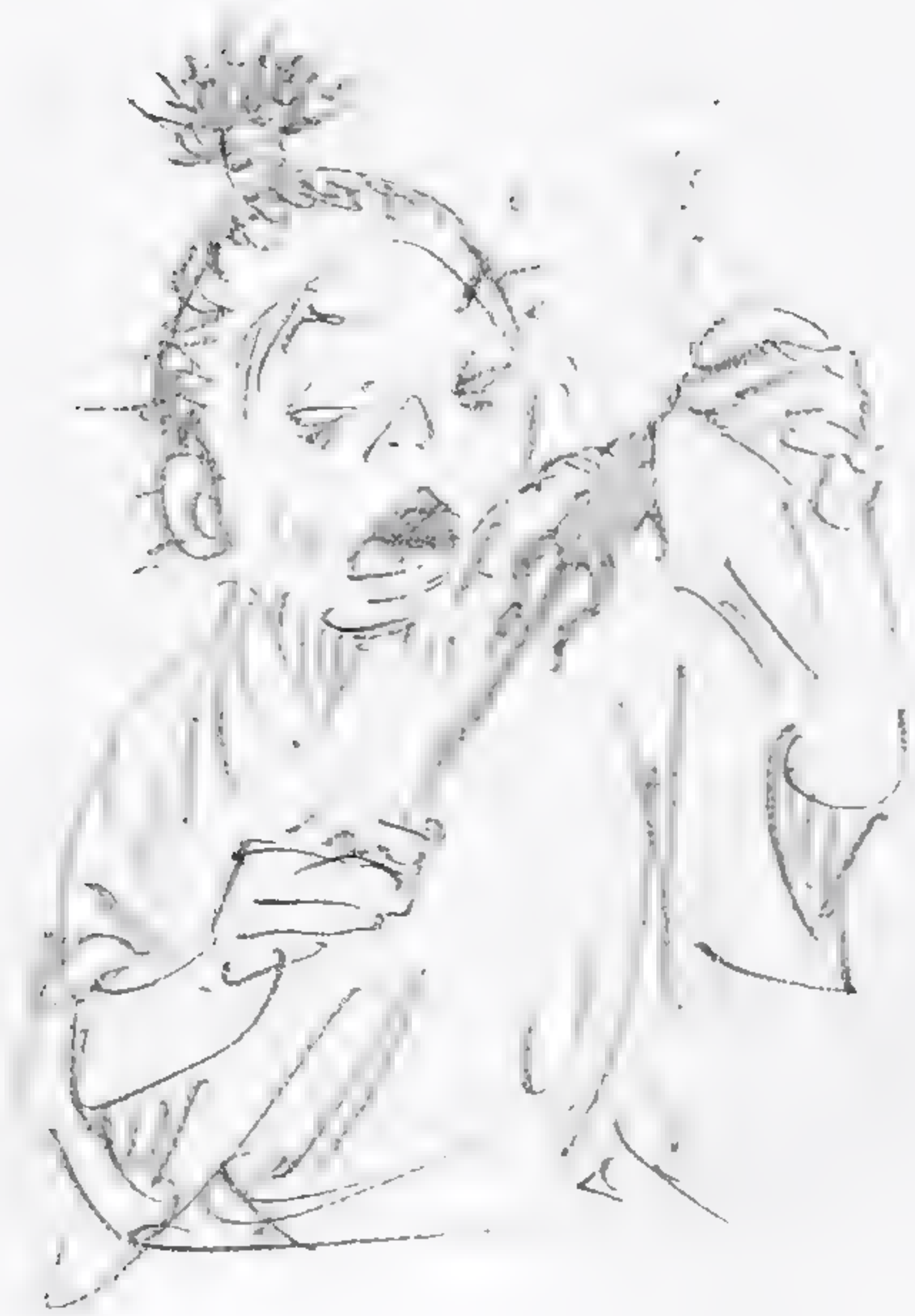
LET'S JUST GO TO THE CASTLE.

THE CAS-TLE?

FICH

...ONCE AGAIN RETURNS.

FICH



LOOK, HATSU...

SON...

IT'S SMALL, BUT...

...THIS IS THE RIGHT SPOT.

THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.

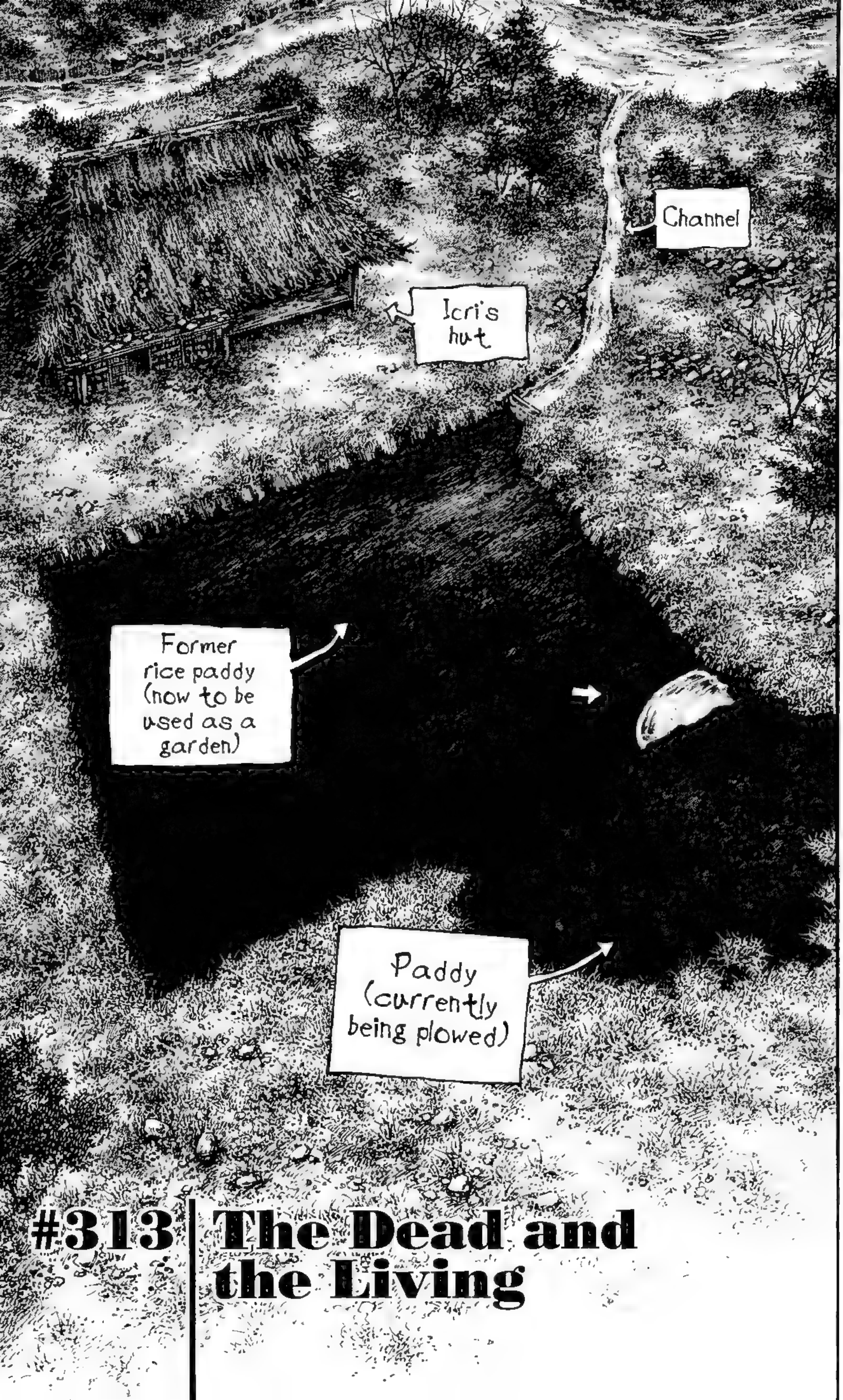
THIS TIME AROUND.

HELP US.

PLEASE DON'T LEAVE US.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT...
BUT FOR NOW, I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

PLEASE HELP US.
FATHER WAS SAYING THAT YOUR FIELD IS OUR LAST HOPE.
...



#313 The Dead and the Living

HEY!!

OLD MAN!

PHEW

COME ON!

YOU DIDN'T EAT ANY OF IT!

...

HMPH.

I'LL BOIL IT DOWN SO YOU CAN DRINK IT.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME...I'LL DIE SOON ENOUGH...

GIVE THAT TO SOMEONE ELSE...

...

PHEW

WHAT IS IT?

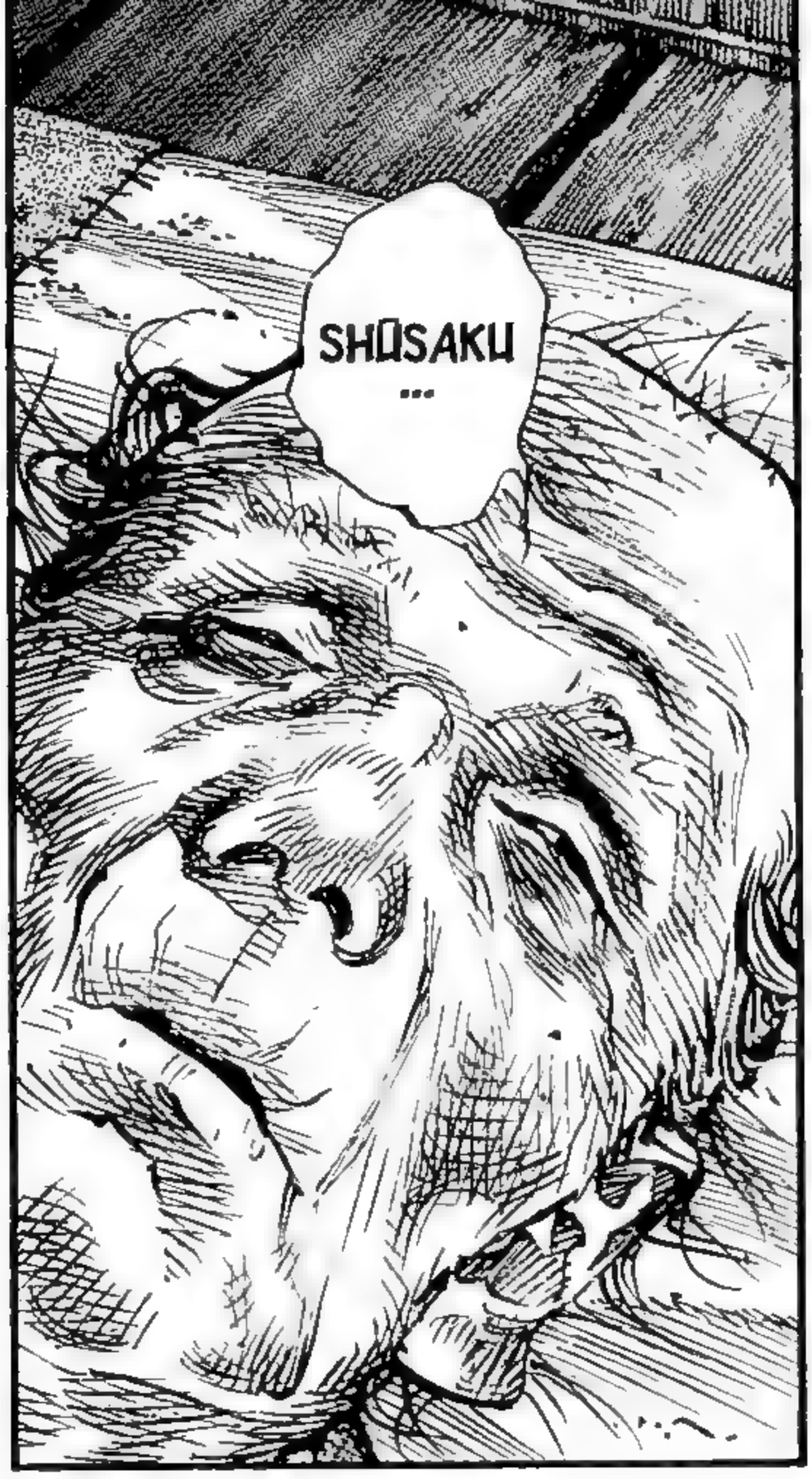
I DOUBT IT.

YOU THINK THESE STUPID VILLAGERS COULD GET BY WITHOUT THEIR ELDER?

...IN MY STEAD...

COULD-N'T YOU...

...WHAT?


SHŪSAKU ...

...CHANGE THE SHRINE WATER... FOR ME.

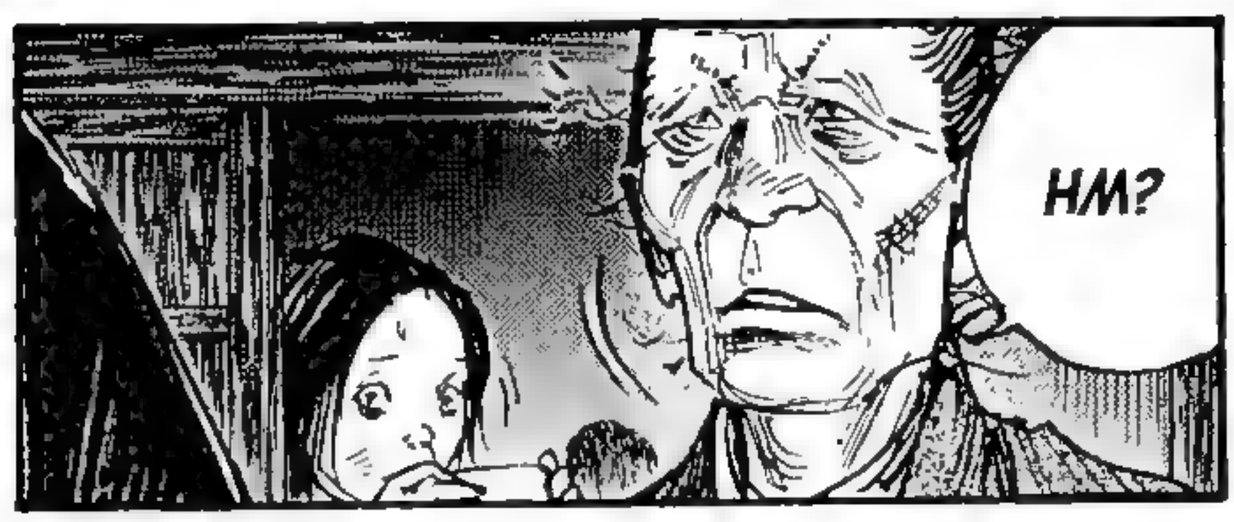
...

IT'S TIME...
...I JOIN...
...THE DEAD ...

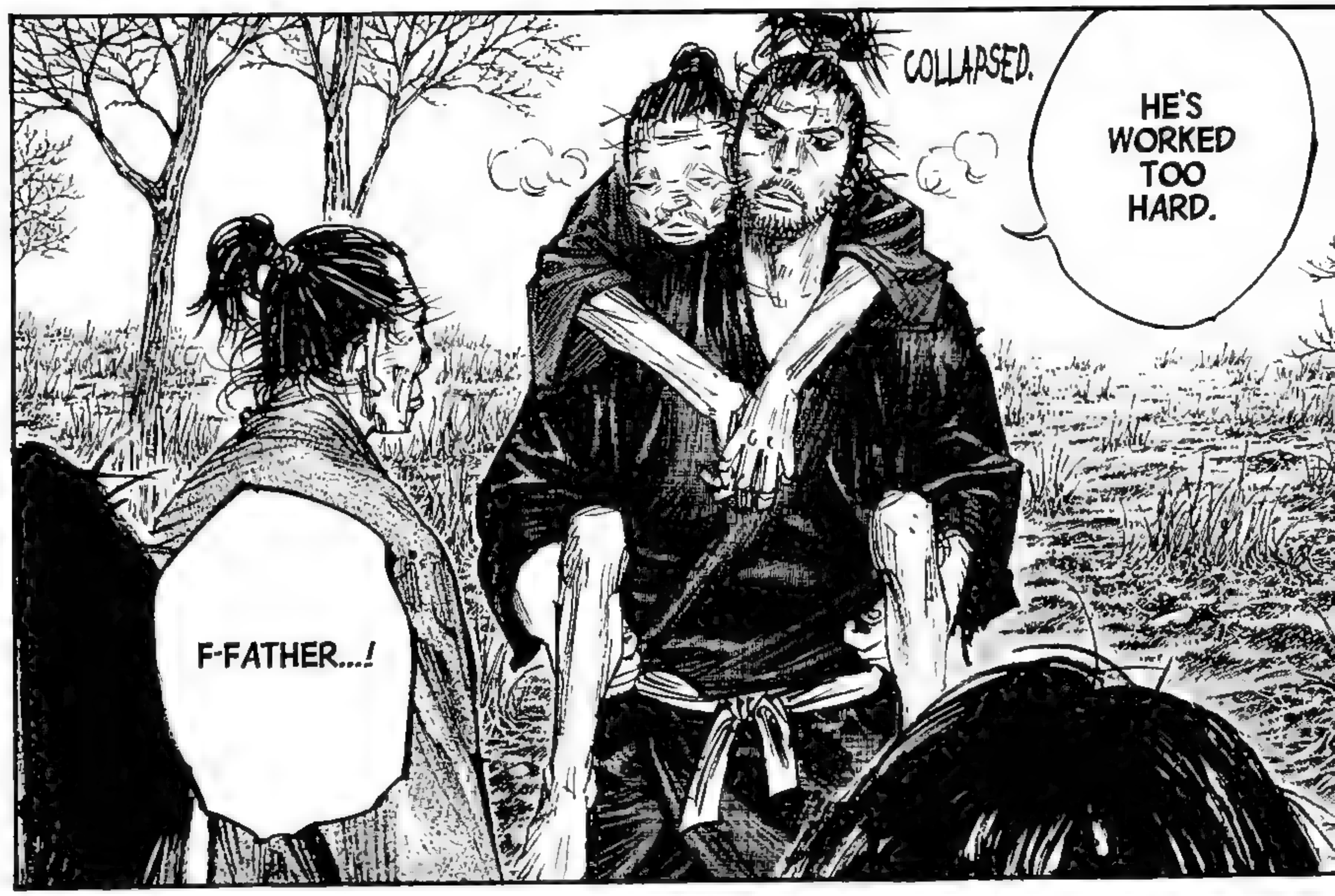
HERE, HAVE SOME OF THIS, OLD MAN.
NO...
HFFF
YOU'LL DIE.
HFFF

...MUST THRIVE OVER THE DEAD.
THE LIVING...

THIS ISN'T ENOUGH.
I'LL GO GET SOME MORE.
SLUPP
SLUPP


HM?

WAIT YOUR TURN.
SIT...


COLLAPSED.
HE'S WORKED TOO HARD.
F-FATHER...!

YOU BETTER EAT TOO.

YOU DIDN'T NEED THAT CANE BEFORE.

SHUT UP.

THE FOOLS HERE ARE ALL COUNTING ON IT... THEY'RE COUNTING ON THAT FIELD OF YOURS.

I CAN'T MAKE ANY PROMISES...

...ABOUT THAT FIELD.

I'M DOING IT BECAUSE I WANT TO.

SO... WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH ME?

IF IT DOESN'T WORK OUT, THEY'LL POINT THE FINGER AT YOU...

THEY'VE SPENT THEIR ENTIRE LIVES BLAMING OTHERS.

...REPEATING AN ENDLESS CYCLE OF LIFE AND DEATH...

MY RICE PADDY WAS PLOWED FOR GENERATIONS...

I TOLD YOU THIS BEFORE, BUT...

...AND SPAWNING NEW LIFE.

...I SUPPOSE THE LIVING...

IS GONZŌ ALL RIGHT?

!

...

WARM YOURSELF BY THE FIRE.

TAKE A BREAK.

YOU'RE NOT LOOKING SO WELL YOURSELF, MUSASHI.

I DON'T KNOW.

FICH

FWICH

WHY DID THIS STRANGER COME HERE AND DECIDE TO STAY?

IF HE HADN'T, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN DONE IN BY BANDITS!

WE OUGHT TO BE GRATEFUL.

HE HASN'T EATEN A THING, JUST LIKE US.

SAMURAI ARE INCREDIBLE.

WE'RE NOT AS STRONG AS YOU.

HELP US.

...

...?

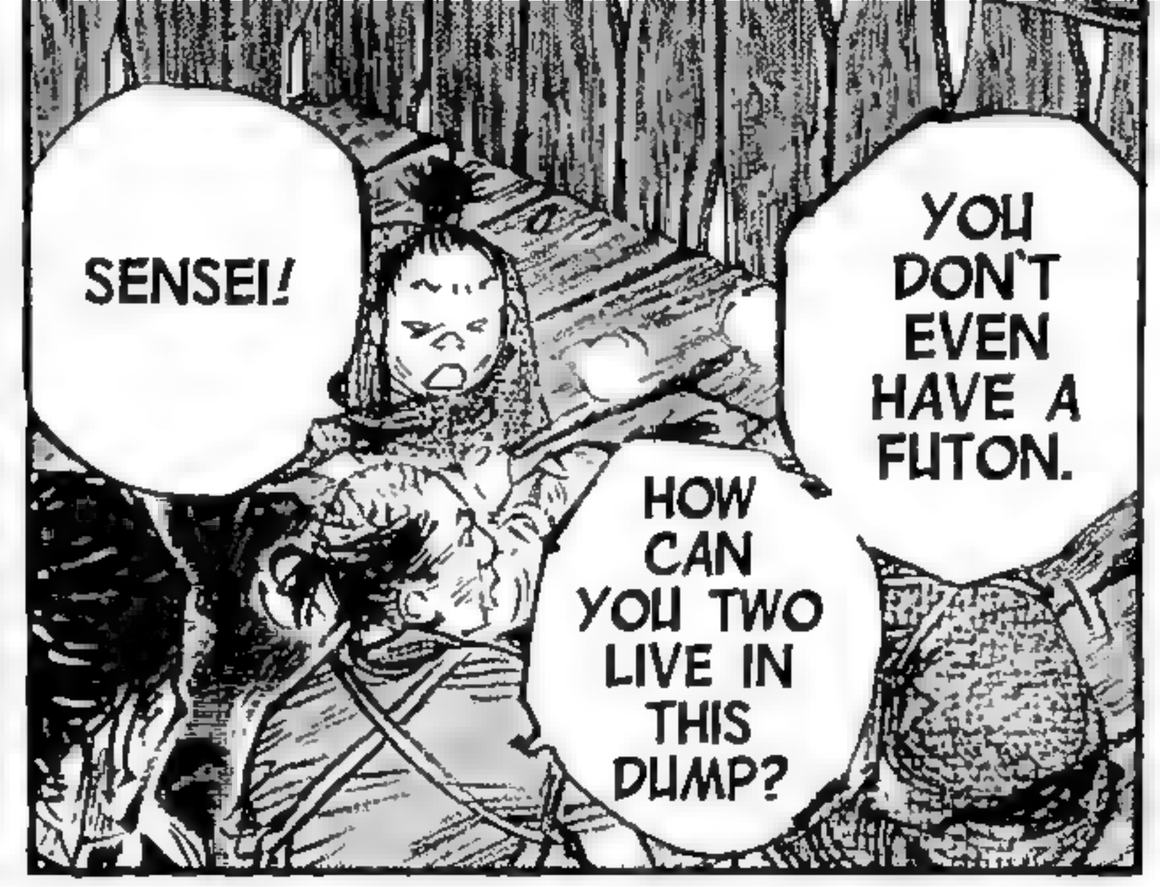
FICH

?
HELP US?

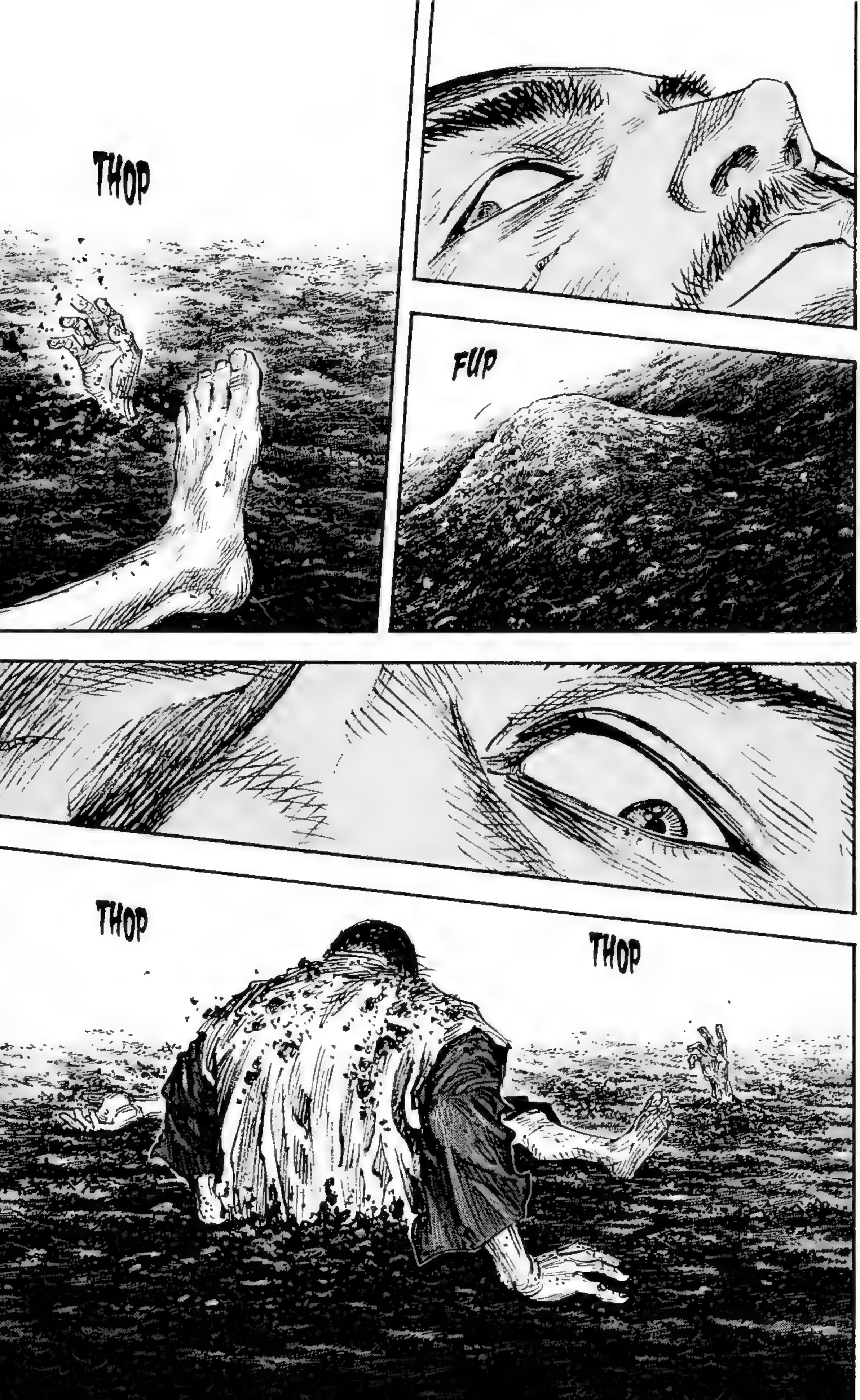
HOW COULD THEY SO EASILY SURRENDER THEMSELVES?

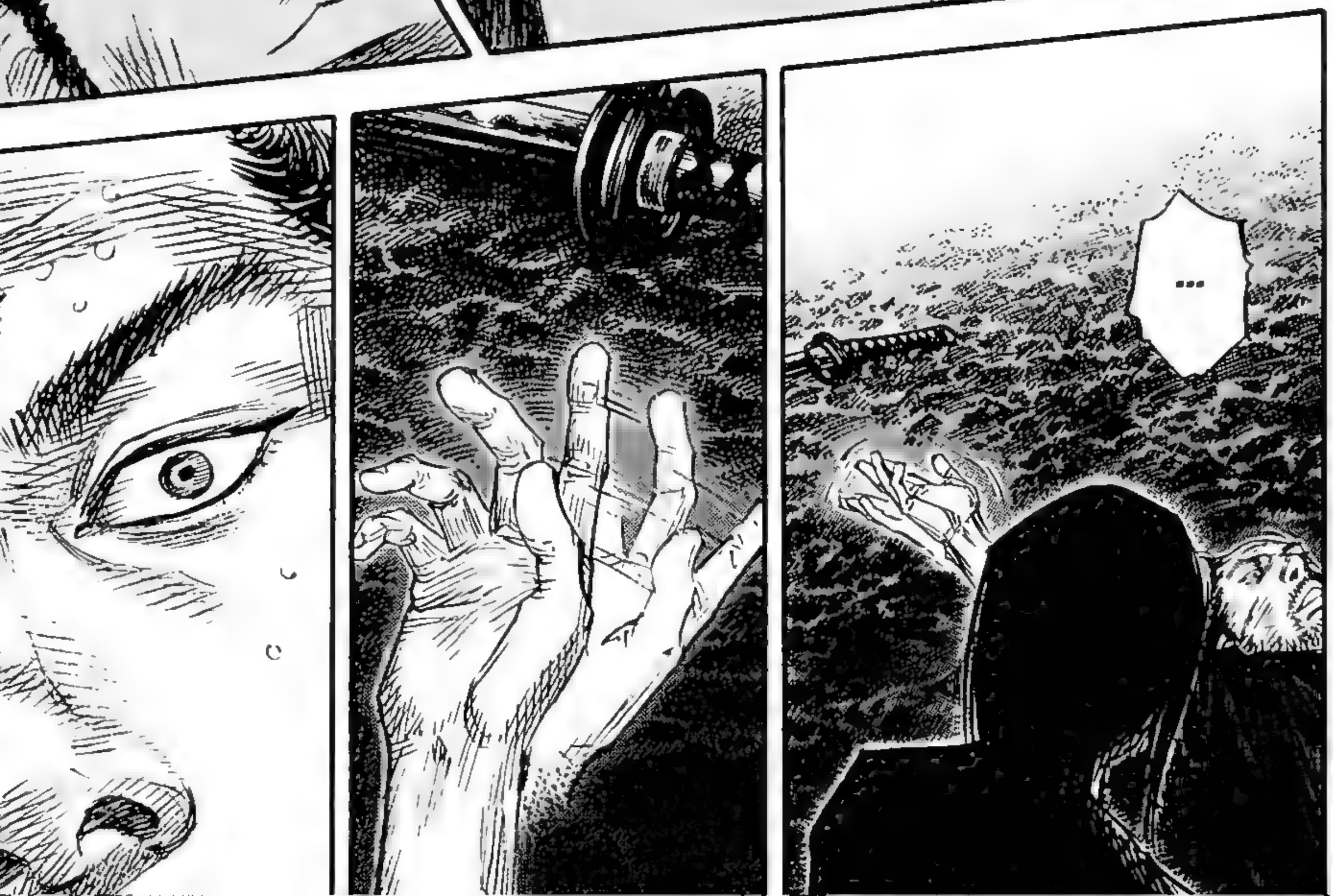
F
W
M
P
?!
SENSEI !!
GET THE FUTON OUT.
MUSASHI FAINTED.
IORI!
...

HE'S HUMAN...
...AFTER ALL.


SENSEI!
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A FUTON.
HOW CAN YOU TWO LIVE IN THIS DUMP?

...I CAN'T EVEN MOVE.
I WANT TO EAT SOMETHING, BUT...
THOP
FUP


THOP
FUP
THOP
THOP



WILL MUSASHI SUCCEED ...
...OR FAIL?
...SUC-CEED...
...OR FAIL...
WHO CARES...
HMPH
?
...
FIP
FWOOP
RECENTLY, I FELT I WAS BEING WATCHED...
HUF
HUF

HM...

WE'RE JUST WATCHING.

...TRYING TO PLOW HIS RICE PADDY.

WHAT A JOKE...

...EH?

THAT SAMURAI ...

... MUSASHI IS TRYING ...

AS IF...

...THE LIFE IS BEING DRAINED OUT OF YOU.

ARE YOU GOING...

...OLD MAN?

...

I'M HERE.

I'M LISTENING.

HM? WHAT IS IT?

THE SHRINE...

I'LL CHANGE THE WATER EVERY MORNING.

I'LL BE SURE TO LOOK AFTER IT...

I KNOW.

THE GODS HAVE BEEN WATCH-ING OVER...

...

THE...

...

...YOUR...
...KINDNESS.

Y-YOU...

...HELPED EVERYONE.
HOW YOU...

...EVEN...
...YOUR LONELINESS.

NEW LIVES TO THRIVE... OVER THE DEAD.

FINALLY TO REST WITH THE LAND.

THE LAND OF THIS VILLAGE.

#314

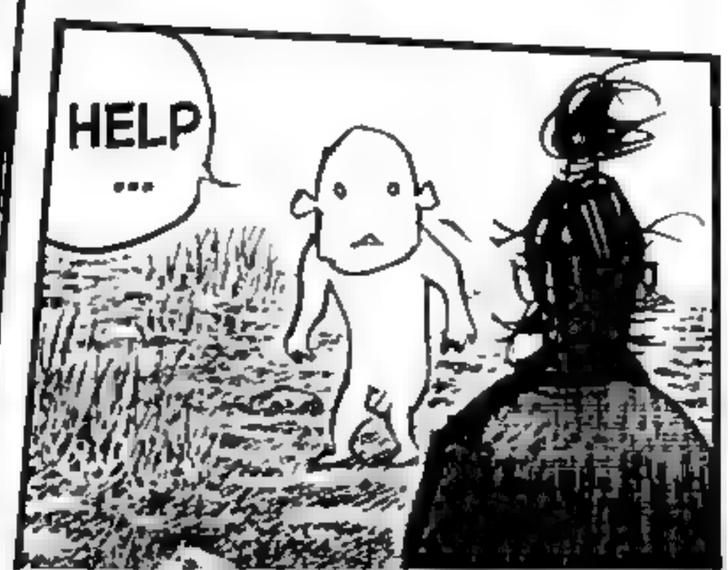
Breath

SHOZŌ
...

HELP US, MUSASHI.

GONZŌ...
HELP.

PLEASE HELP.


HELP
...

HELP.
GENTA.

HOW COULD YOU...

PTU

HOW CAN YOU SO EASILY ASK FOR HELP?

...SURRENDER YOURSELF TO SOMEONE LIKE THAT?

HELP US.

HELP US...

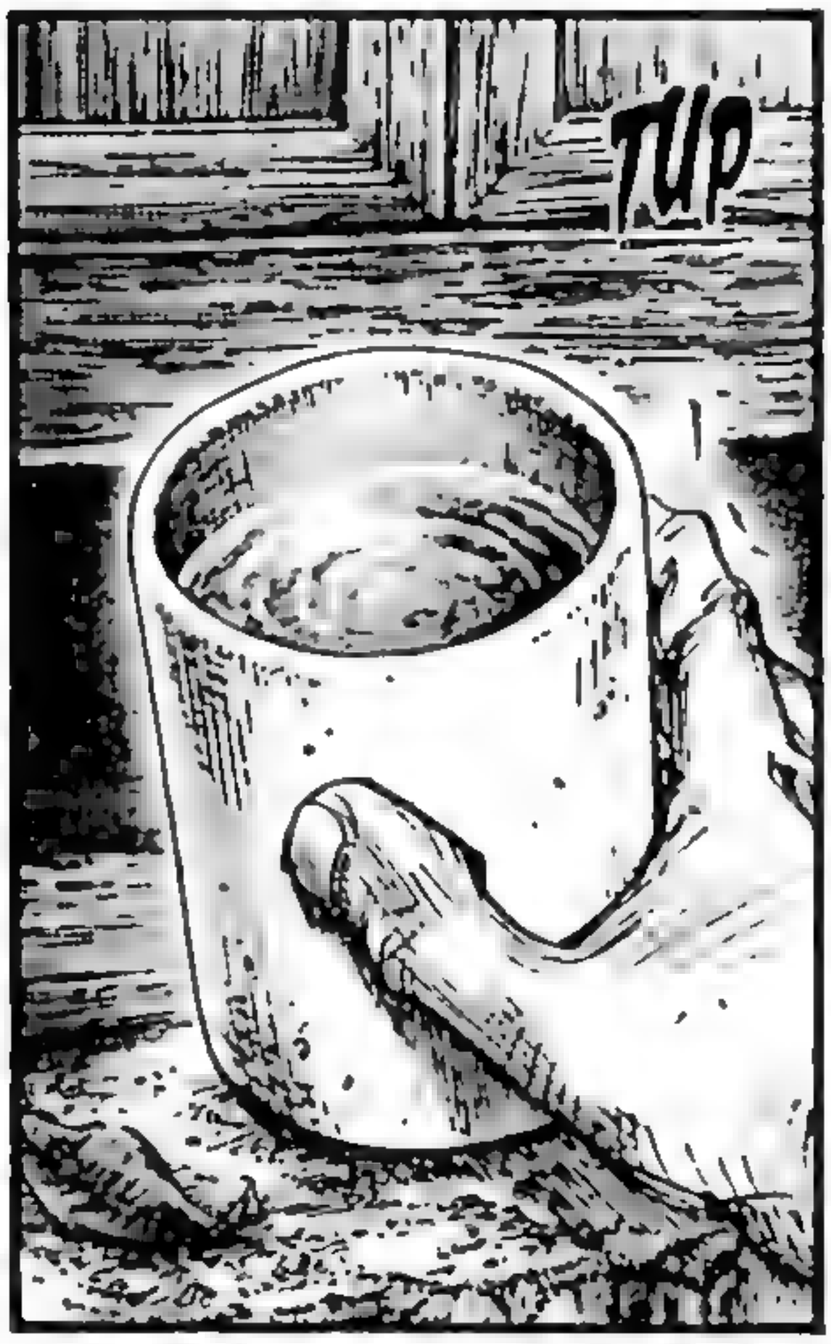
FWICH

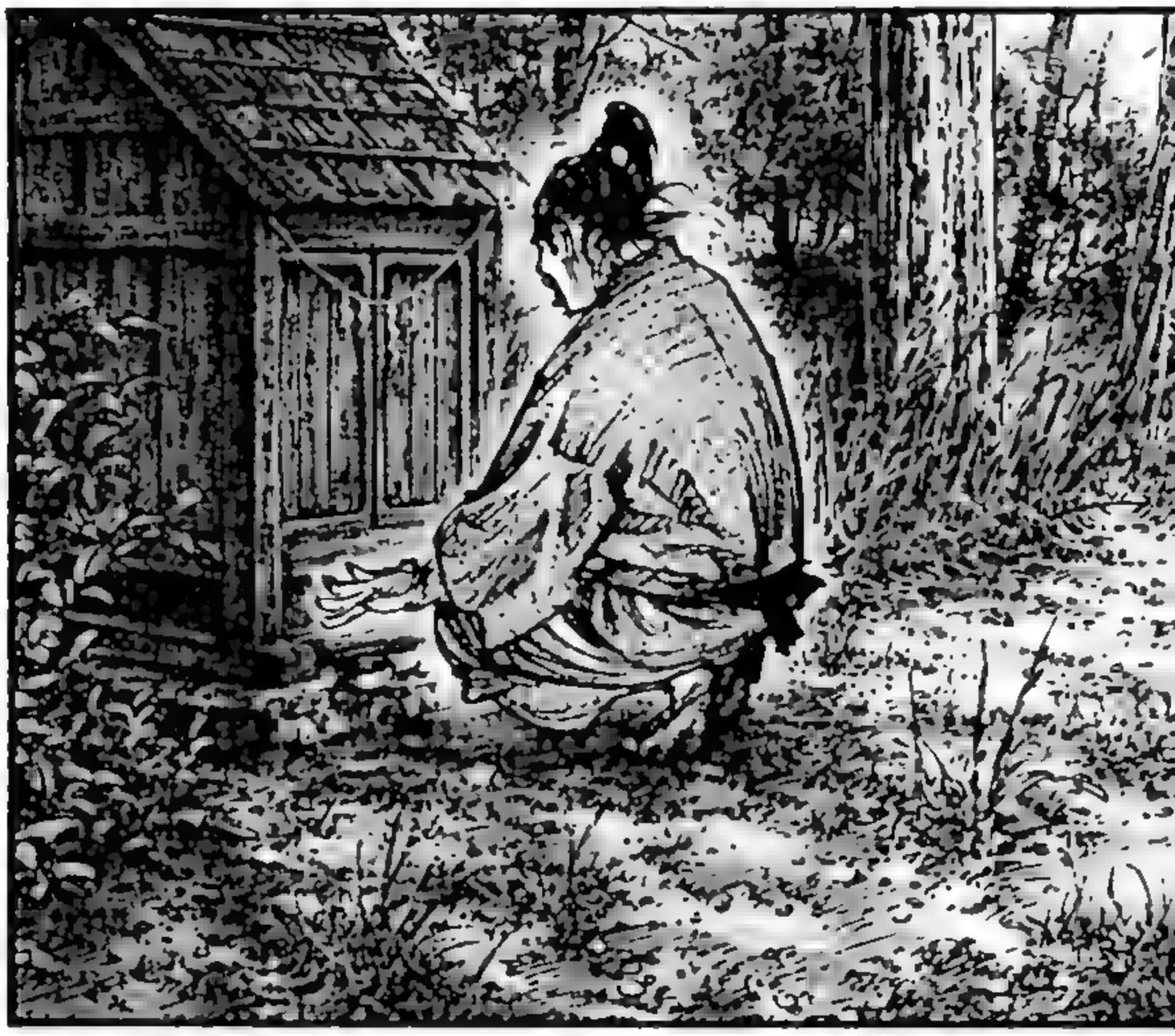
FSH

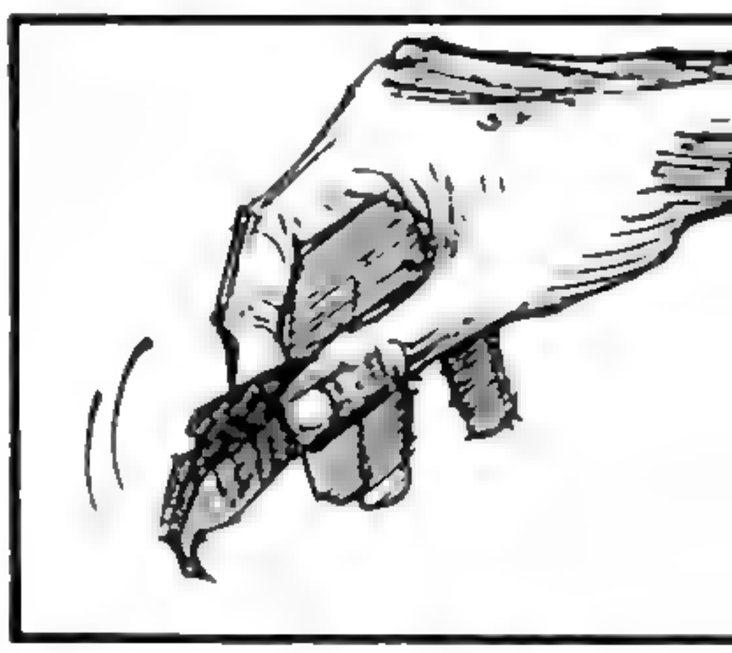
TMP TMP TMP TMP

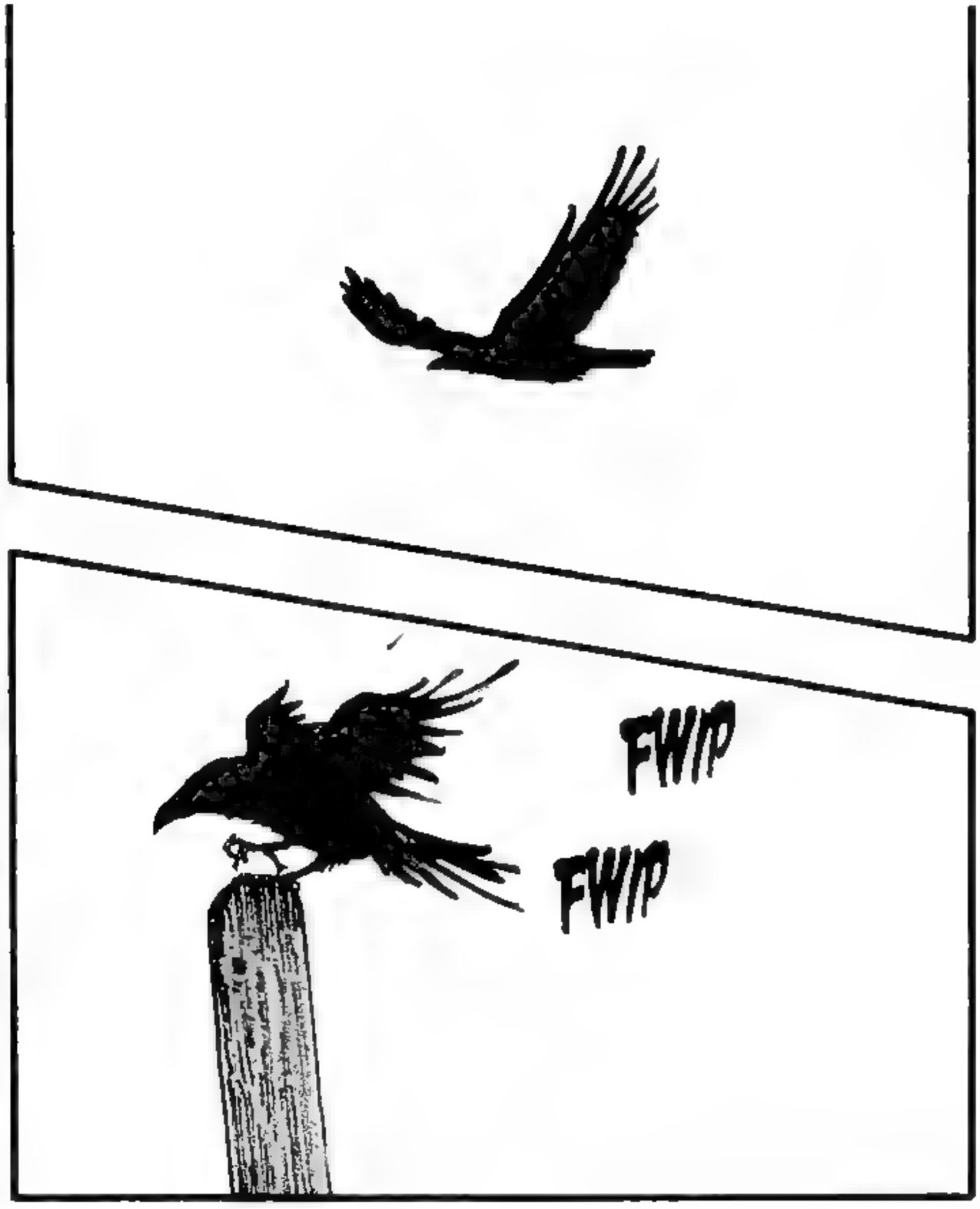
SHŪSAKU... TOLD US TO BRING THIS SOUP TO YOU...
...WHEN YOU WOKE UP.
MUSASHI !

...!


TUP






FWIP
FWIP

FICH
WE NEED MORE HOES HERE!!
WHATEVER STRENGTH YOU HAVE LEFT HAS TO BE PUT INTO WORKING THIS SOIL!
FICH

STOP CALLING US FOOLS.
...

GOTTA HURRY OR THE SOIL WILL FREEZE OVER, YOU FOOLS!

DON'T LET IT GO TO WASTE.
THE SOIL ON THIS SIDE'S NOT GOOD FOR RICE, BUT WE CAN STILL USE IT FOR OTHER CROPS.
DUM DIDI DUM

DADUM DADA DO
BADA BADA DUM
HUH ?

DUM DIDI DO

AT LEAST WE CAN SING.

!!

WHY NOT WORK WITH A SMILE...?

GETTING DIRTY IN THE FIELD... THE SUN SHINES ON ME...

KIYO!

KIYO...!

KIYO!

...THE BRIGHTER I AM... YAH...

...THE BLACKER I GET...

TOK

TOK

TOK

TURN ONE GRAIN TO A MILLION.
COME ON DOWN, WON'T YOU SHINE ON ME, YAH!
FICH

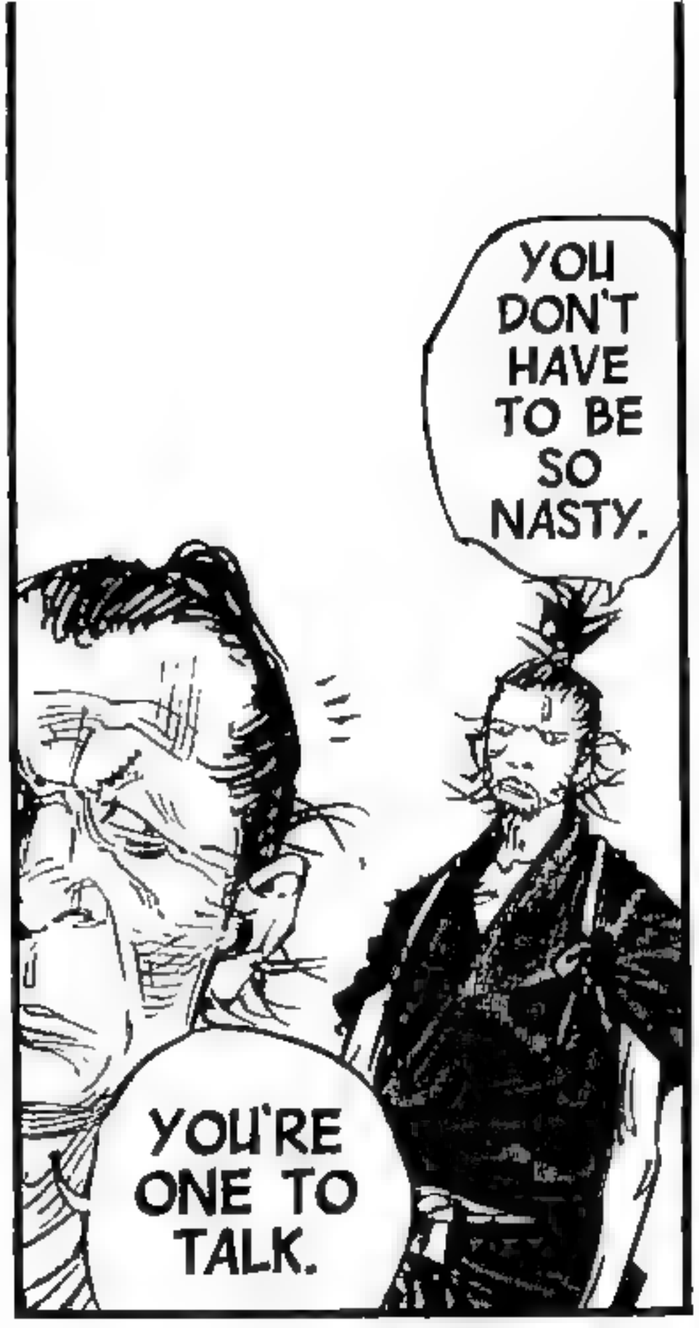
I'M... GETTING DIZZY.
DAMN IT.

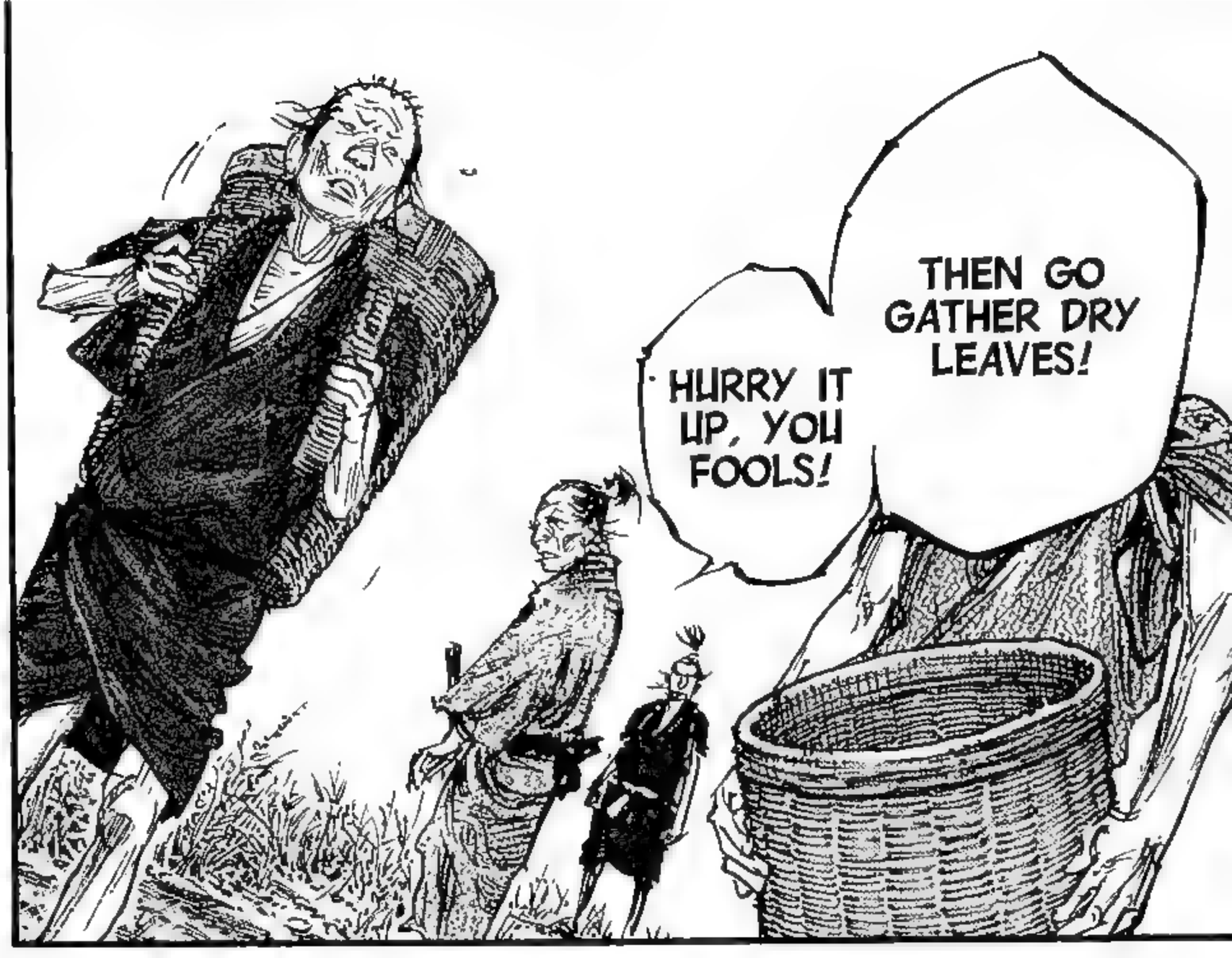
WE NEED STRAW.
BUT WE HAVE NONE.

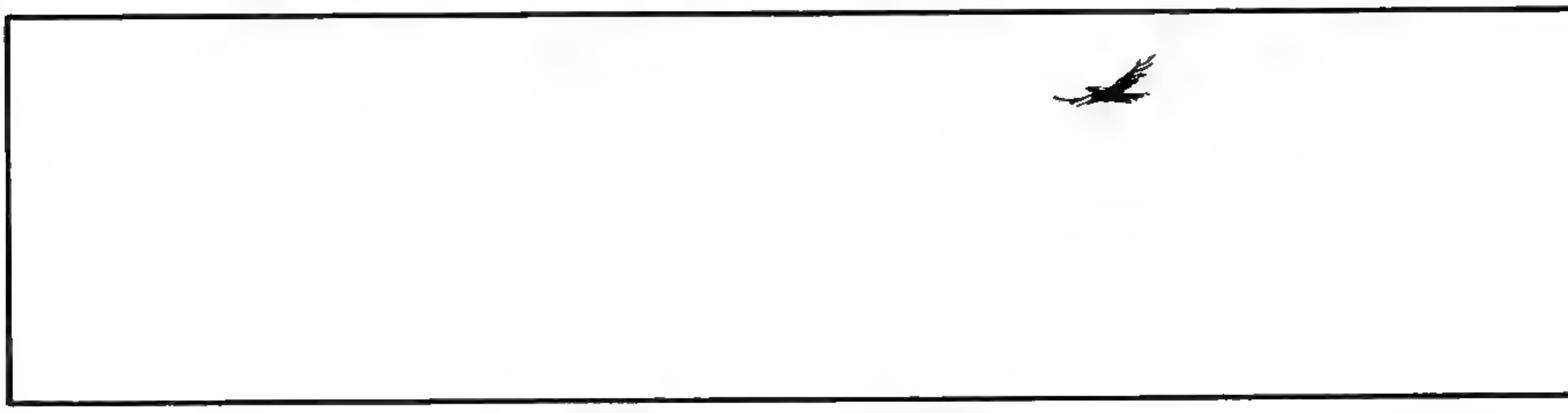
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SHŪSAKU?
YEAH, I'M FINE.

FICH

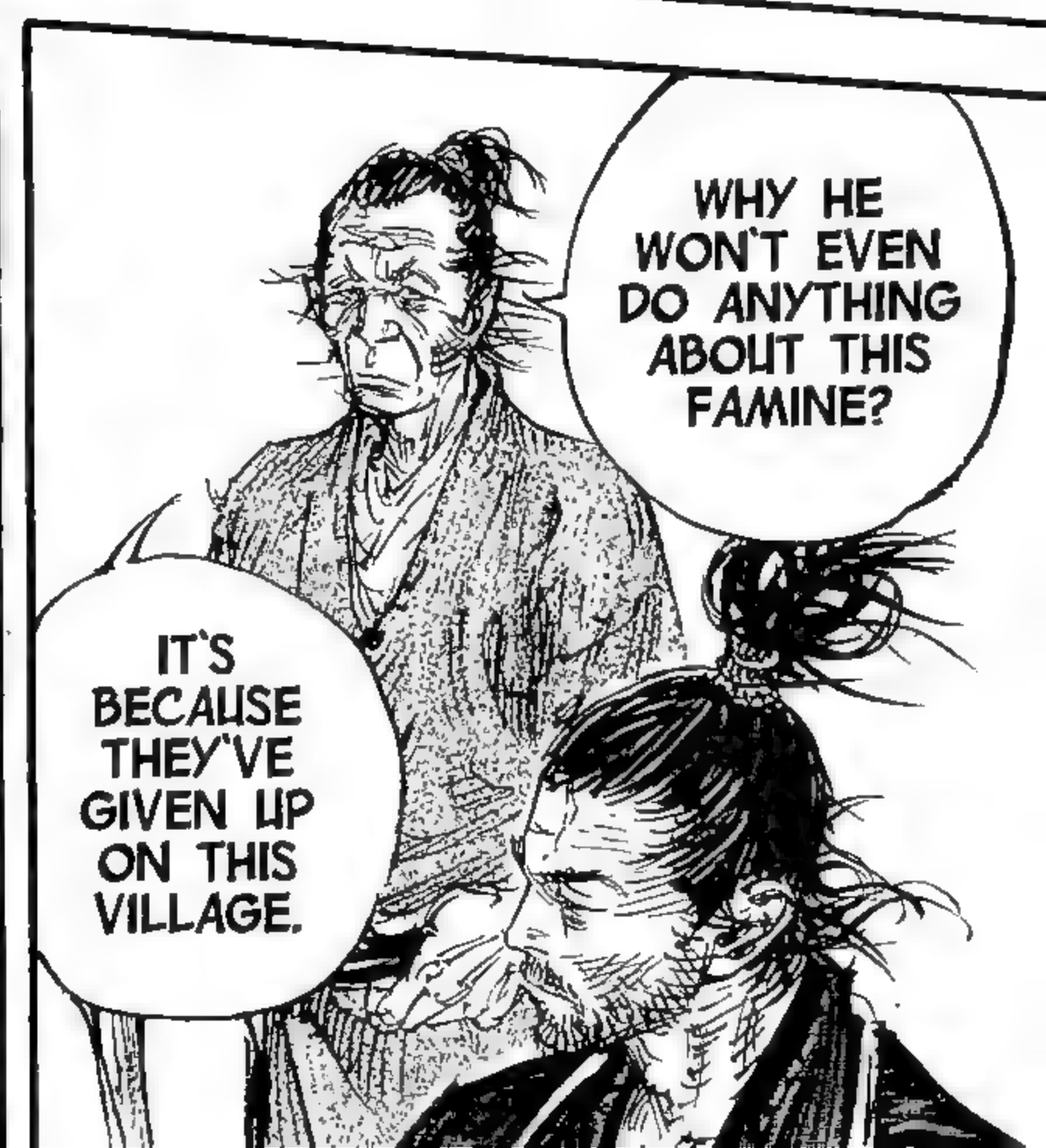
FICH


YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO NASTY.
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK.


HURRY IT UP, YOU FOOLS!
THEN GO GATHER DRY LEAVES!



DON'T YOU KNOW WHY HE WON'T SEND ANYONE TO COLLECT THE CROP TAX?
NO.
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THE LORD COME HERE?
MUSASHI ...


WHY HE WON'T EVEN DO ANYTHING ABOUT THIS FAMINE?
IT'S BECAUSE THEY'VE GIVEN UP ON THIS VILLAGE.

IT'S CONSIDERED HOPELESS.

FLOODED TOO MANY TIMES EVERY YEAR, IT WON'T YIELD ANY CROPS.

ITS PEOPLE, ITS SOIL...

...NO BETTER THAN TRASH.

...BREATHE...

...WE'RE GOING TO MAKE IT...

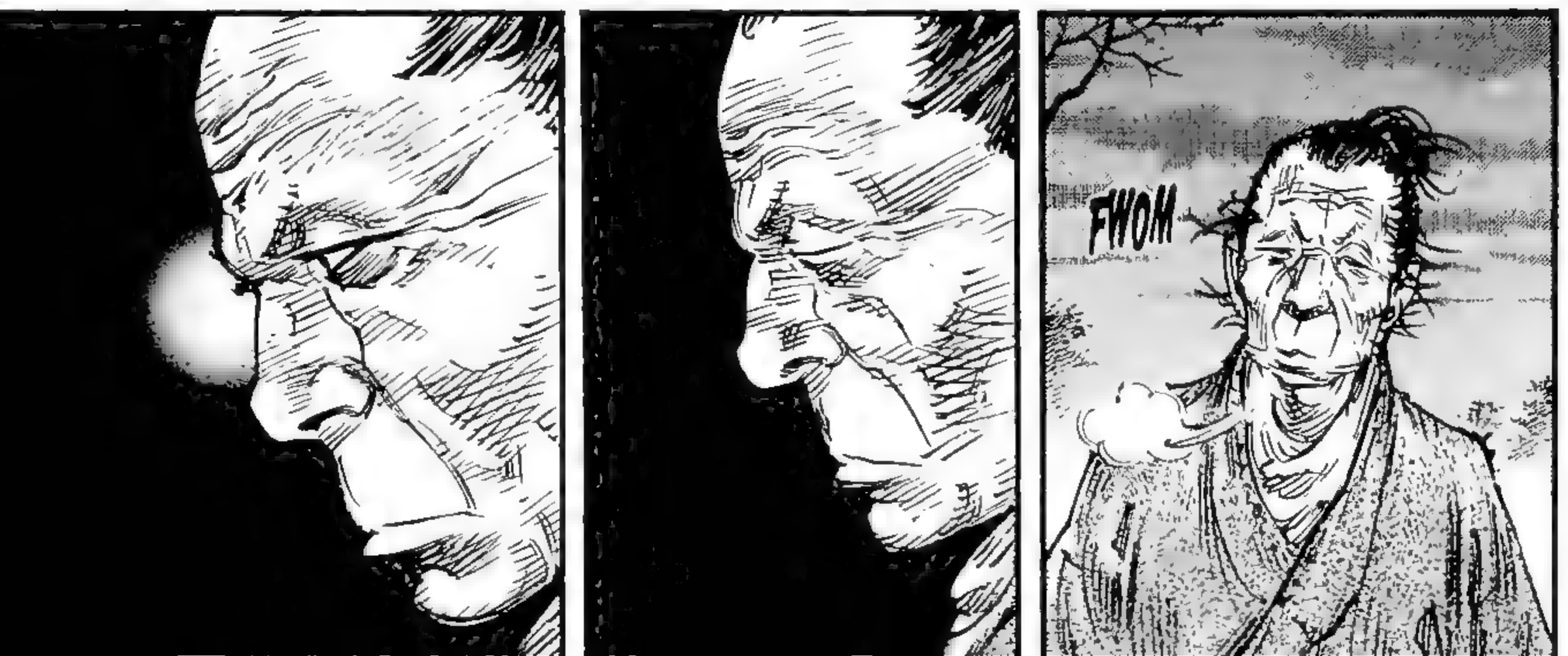
IT'S ALL ABOUT THE SOIL.

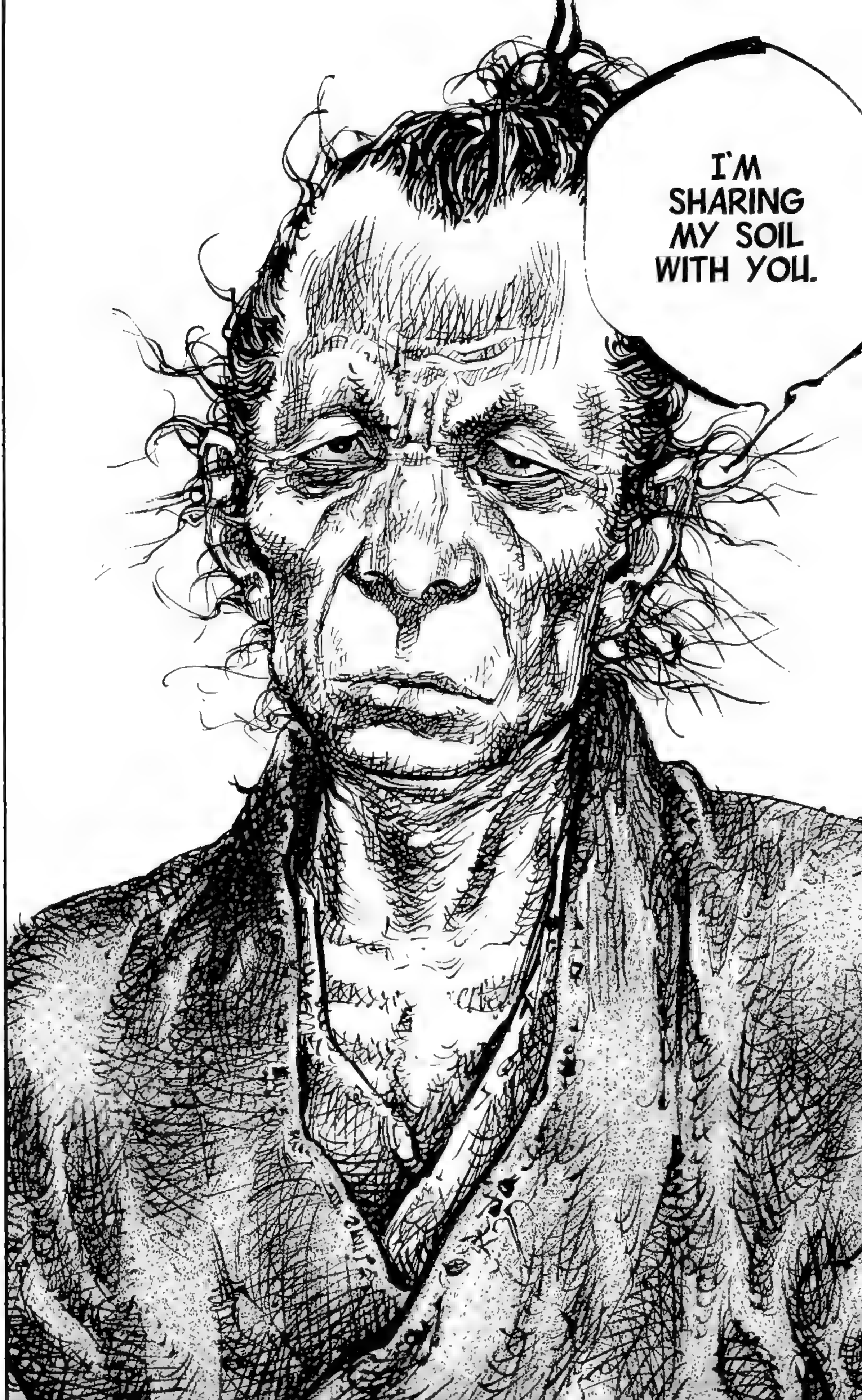
BEFORE WINTER COMES...

WHAT...

WE WON'T FAIL.

...


FWOM


I'M SHARING MY SOIL WITH YOU.

TAKE IT...

HHHDDD

FSHHH
BE THOROUGH NOW.
ALL OVER...
MIX IT UP.

MAKE IT BREATHE.

THE SOIL IS ALIVE.
YOU UNDER-STAND?

...

IT'S NOT ABOUT ME WIELDING THE HOE.
I FEEL IT.
MY BODY'S ONLY THE PROP FOR THE HOE.
IT'S EXACTLY THE SAME...
...AS THE SWORD.
WHY BRING UP A SWORD ANALOGY?

EVERY-THING FOR THE SWORD.

TO LIVE BY THE SWORD.

TO BE STRONG ...

THAT'S ME.

WHAT'S THIS?

LET GO...

CLOSED OFF.

AS IF YOU UNDER-STAND THAT AS WELL...

IT'S NO GOOD.

...YOU TRY TO CLOSE OFF THE SOIL...

AS IF YOU TRULY UNDERSTAND THE SWORD...

MY SWORD WILL END UP DECAYED TOO.

LOOK...

LOOK AT YOUR OPPONENT.

DON'T CLOSE YOURSELF OFF. OPEN UP.

FCH

FCH

YOUR OPPONENT IS THE SOIL.

SHŪSAKU'S SOIL...

FICH

FICH

HELP US...

...

UH...

I DIDN'T MEAN THAT.

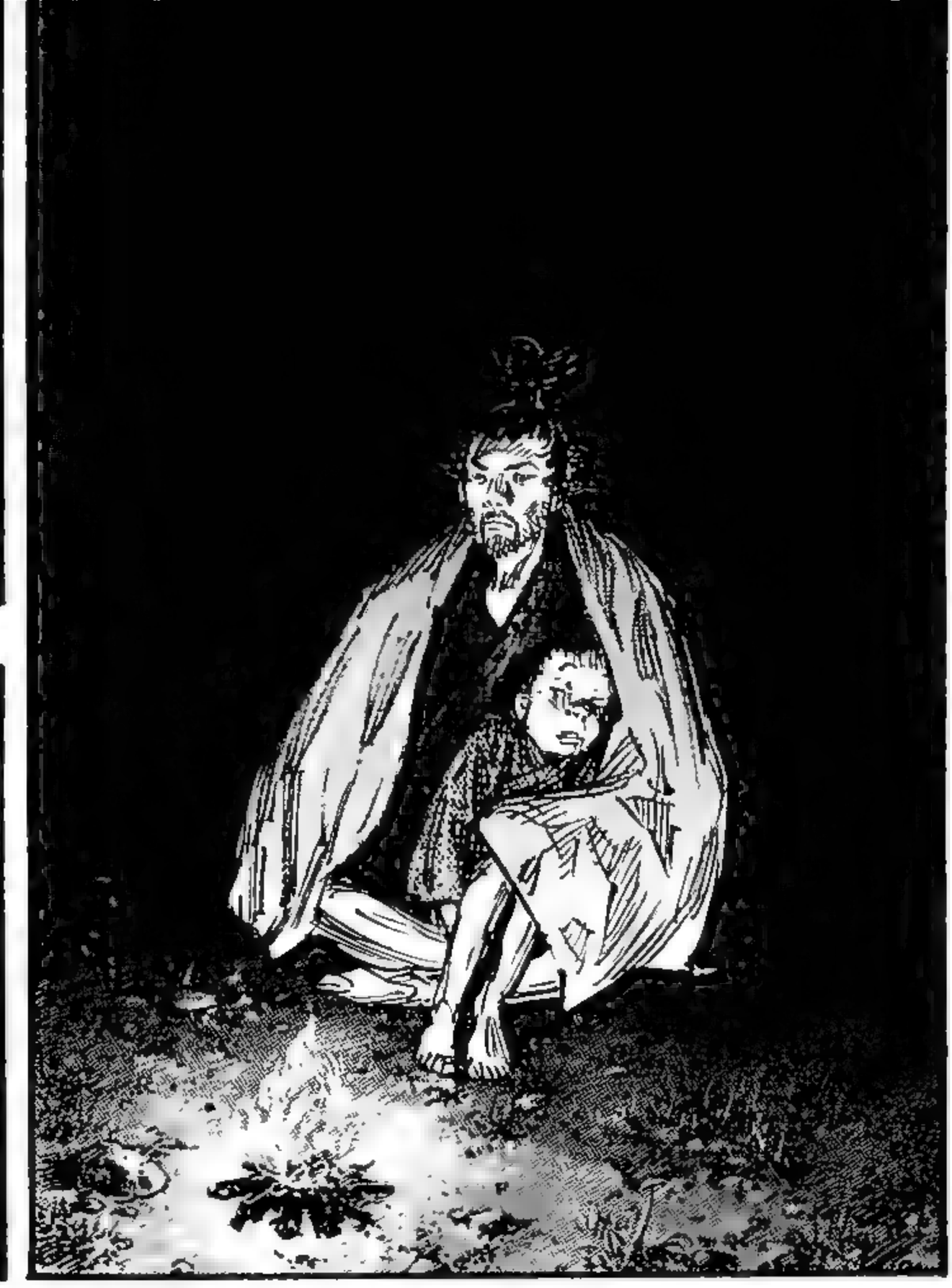
FLOOD THE FIELD.

GLUGG

GLUGG

GLUGG

HM? YOU'RE UP EARLY, GENTA.
FICH
FICH



FICH
YOU COULDN'T SLEEP, HUH?
FICH

WHAT ABOUT YOU?
IT'S STILL BEFORE SUNRISE.

YOU'RE LIKE KIDS.
HA HA
SAME AS YOU.

THE SUN'S COMING UP.
YES...

AHH...!!

FATHER, WE FINALLY MADE A RICE PADDY HERE.

YOU WERE WATCHING OVER US, RIGHT?

THAT DAY...

...SAW THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST SNOW.

AND THE WINTER OF DEATH BEGAN.

#315 When the Water Turns Warm

WON'T YOU HOLD HIM?

HE WANTS YOU TO HOLD HIM.

SEE...

HE'S SMILING.

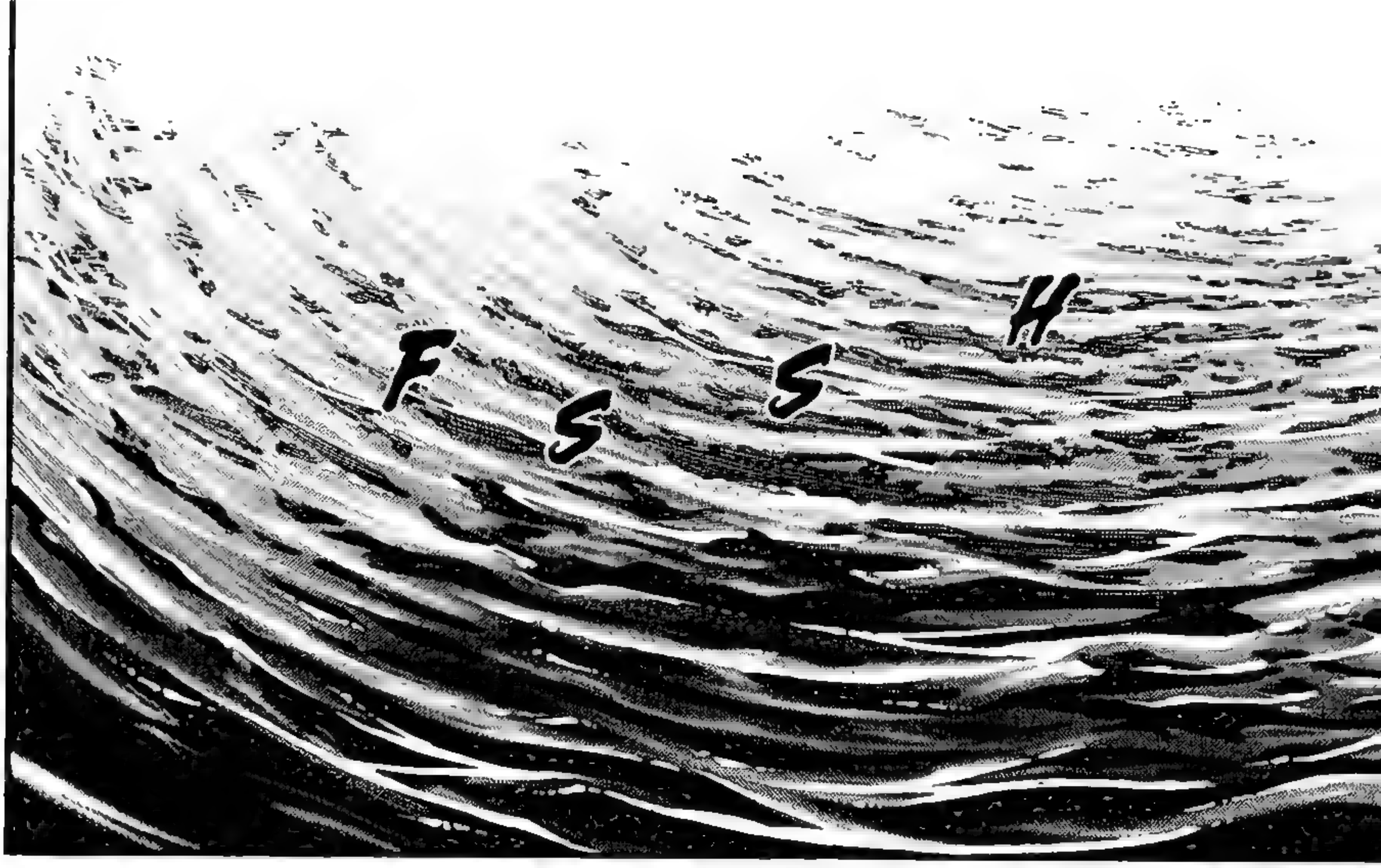
DON'T KNOW HOW.

I'VE NEVER HELD A CHILD.

HE OWES HIS LIFE TO YOU, AFTER ALL.

...

WAHHH


FSSSH

WE HAVE TWO RICE PADDIES.

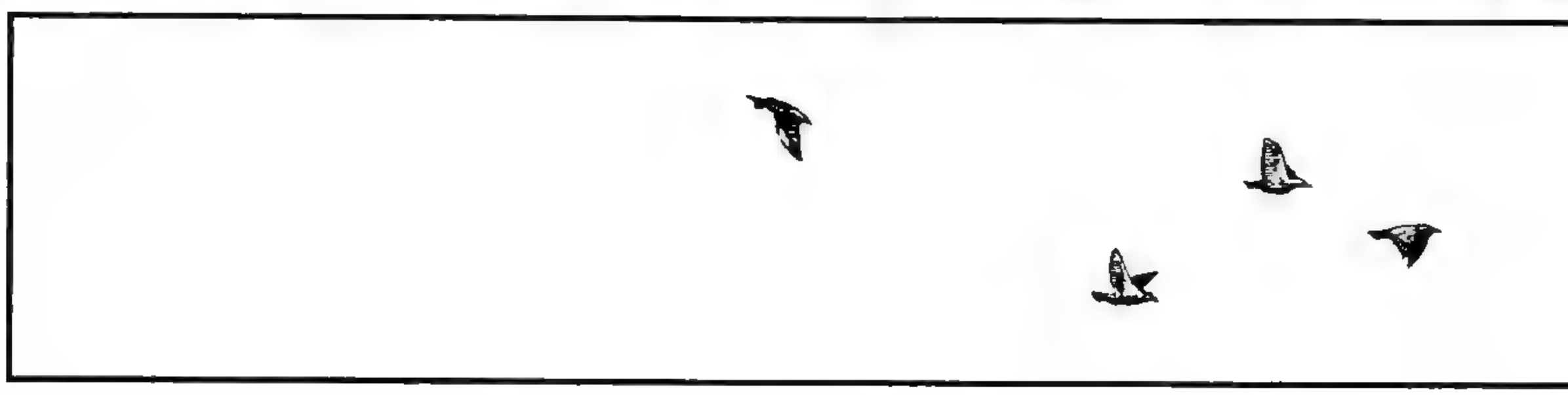
IORI'S...
...AND MINE.
THE RICE SEEDS...

THIS IS ALL WE HAVE.

PLANT THEM IN SPRING WHEN THE WATER TURNS WARM.

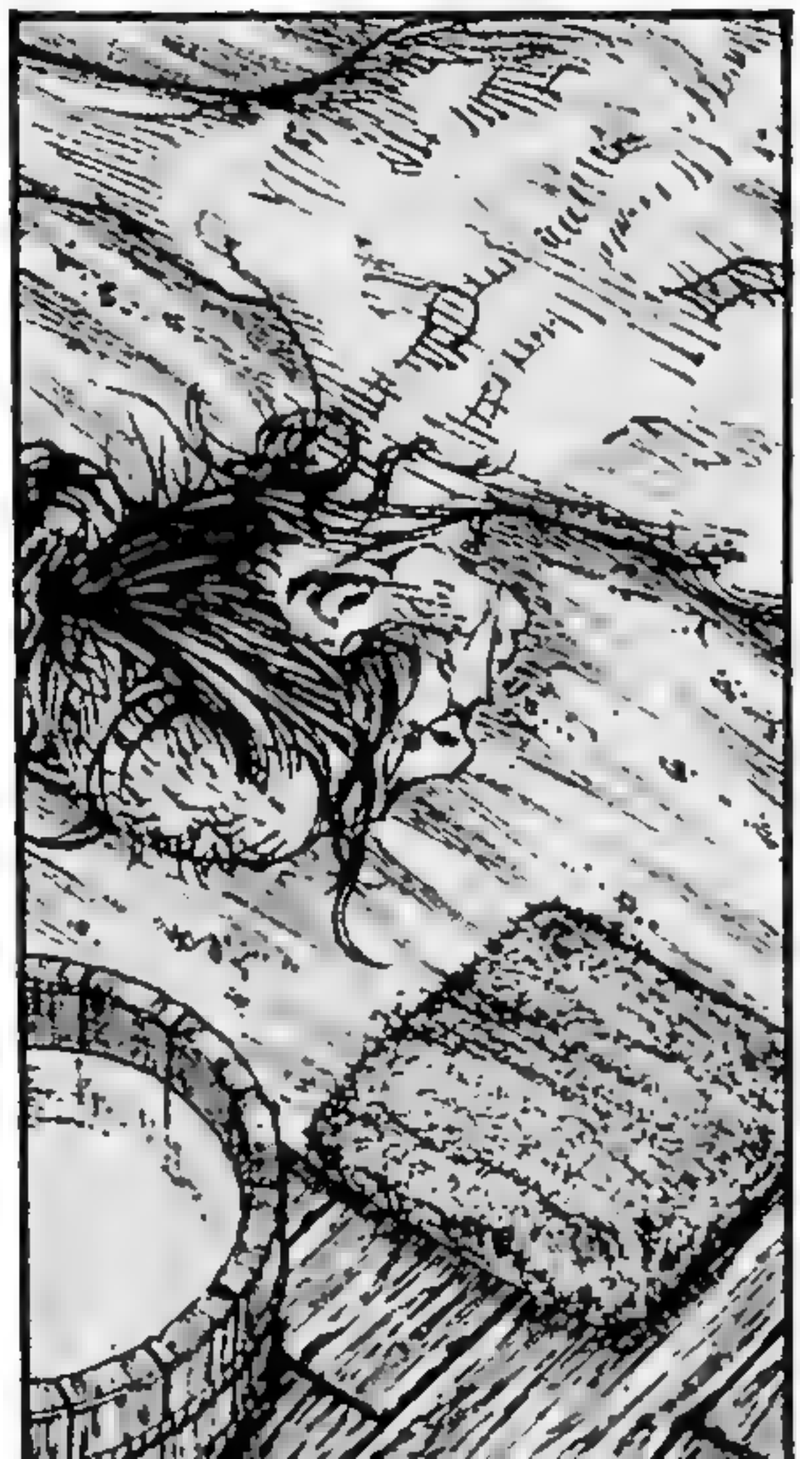
WE'LL SPLIT THESE BETWEEN THE TWO FIELDS.

WHEN THE HARVEST COMES...
...WE'LL DIVIDE IT AMONGST EVERYONE.



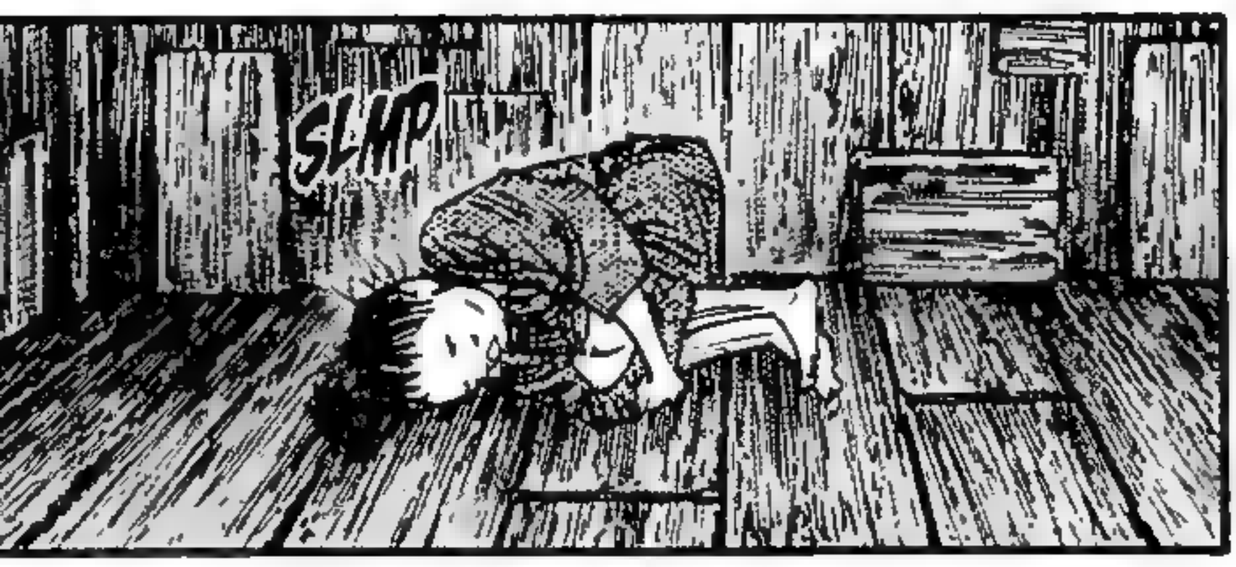
THERE'S NOTHING TO EAT...

ANOTHER VILLAGER DIED THIS MORNING.



FIFTY... MAYBE A HUNDRED.

HOW MANY MORE DAYS UNTIL SPRING?

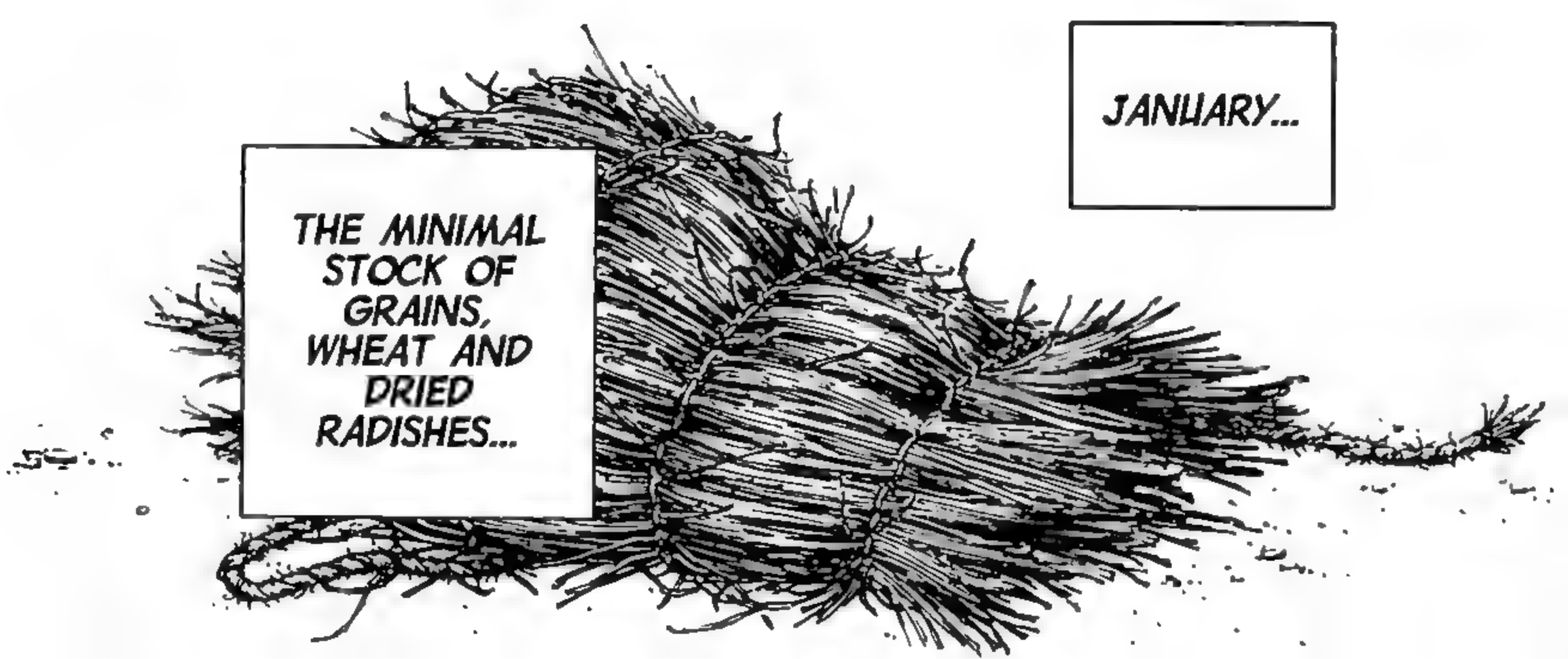


CONGRATULATIONS...

YOU'RE HERE...

THIS IS WHERE YOU DIE.

YOU'VE BEEN SEEKING IT OUT FOR SO LONG.


JANUARY...
THE MINIMAL STOCK OF GRAINS, WHEAT AND DRIED RADISHES...

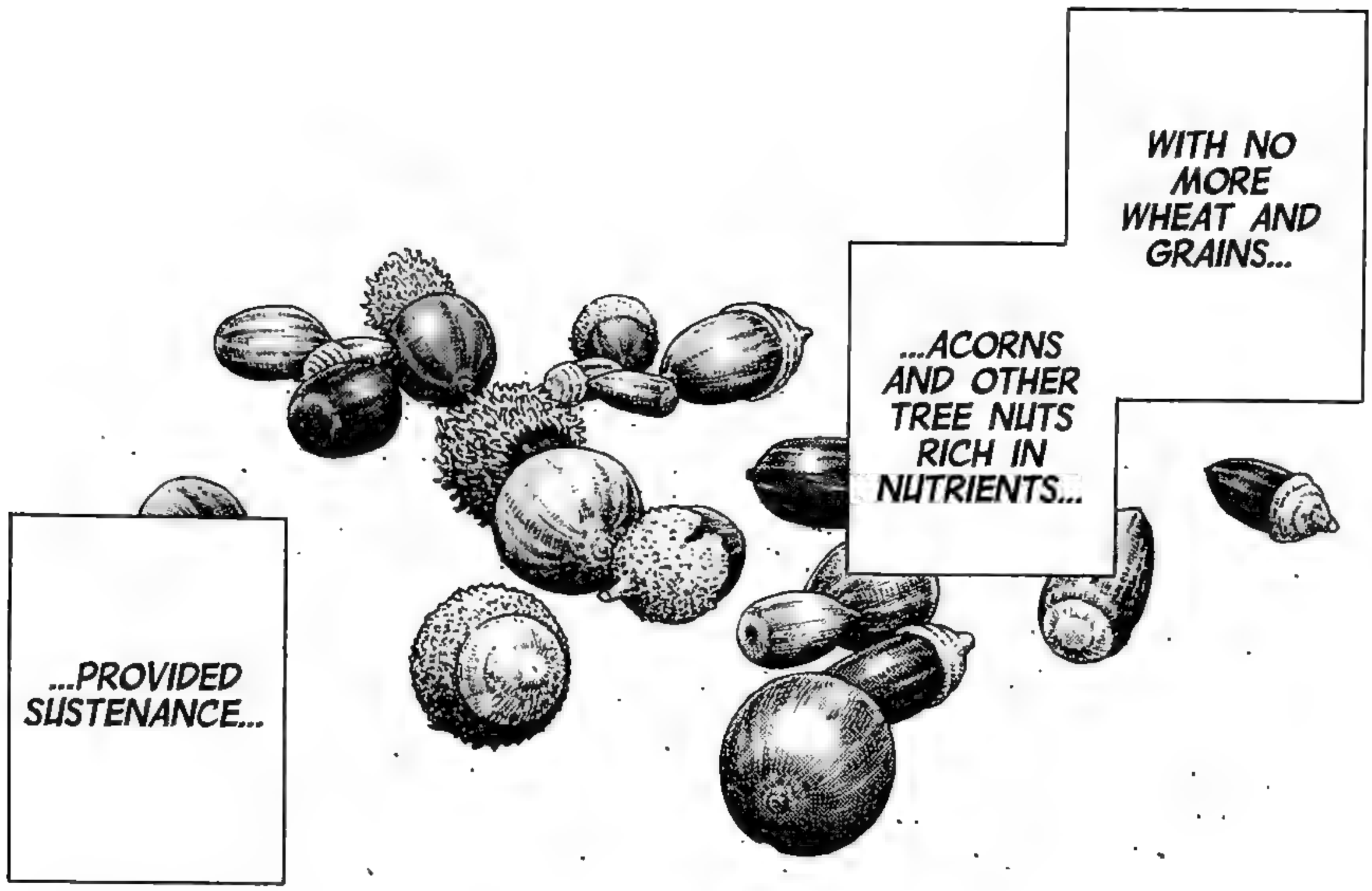
IT'S OVER...

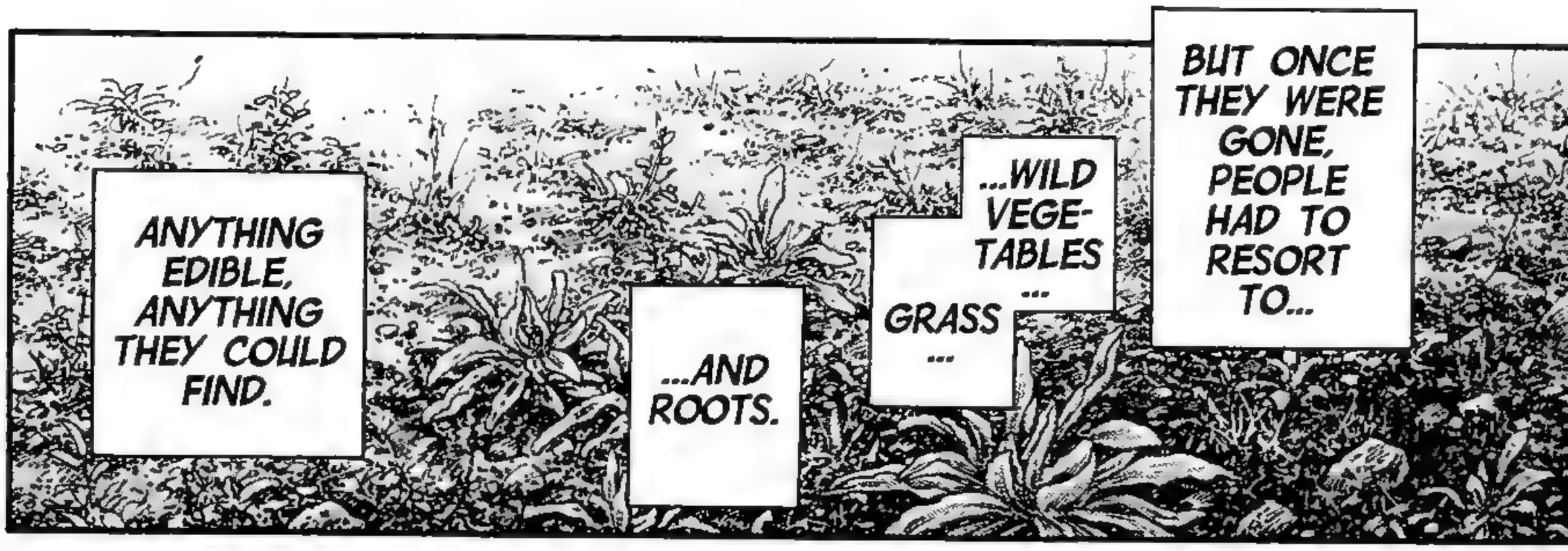
...IS COM-PLETELY GONE.

WAHH
WAHHH

!!

I HAVE NO MILK...

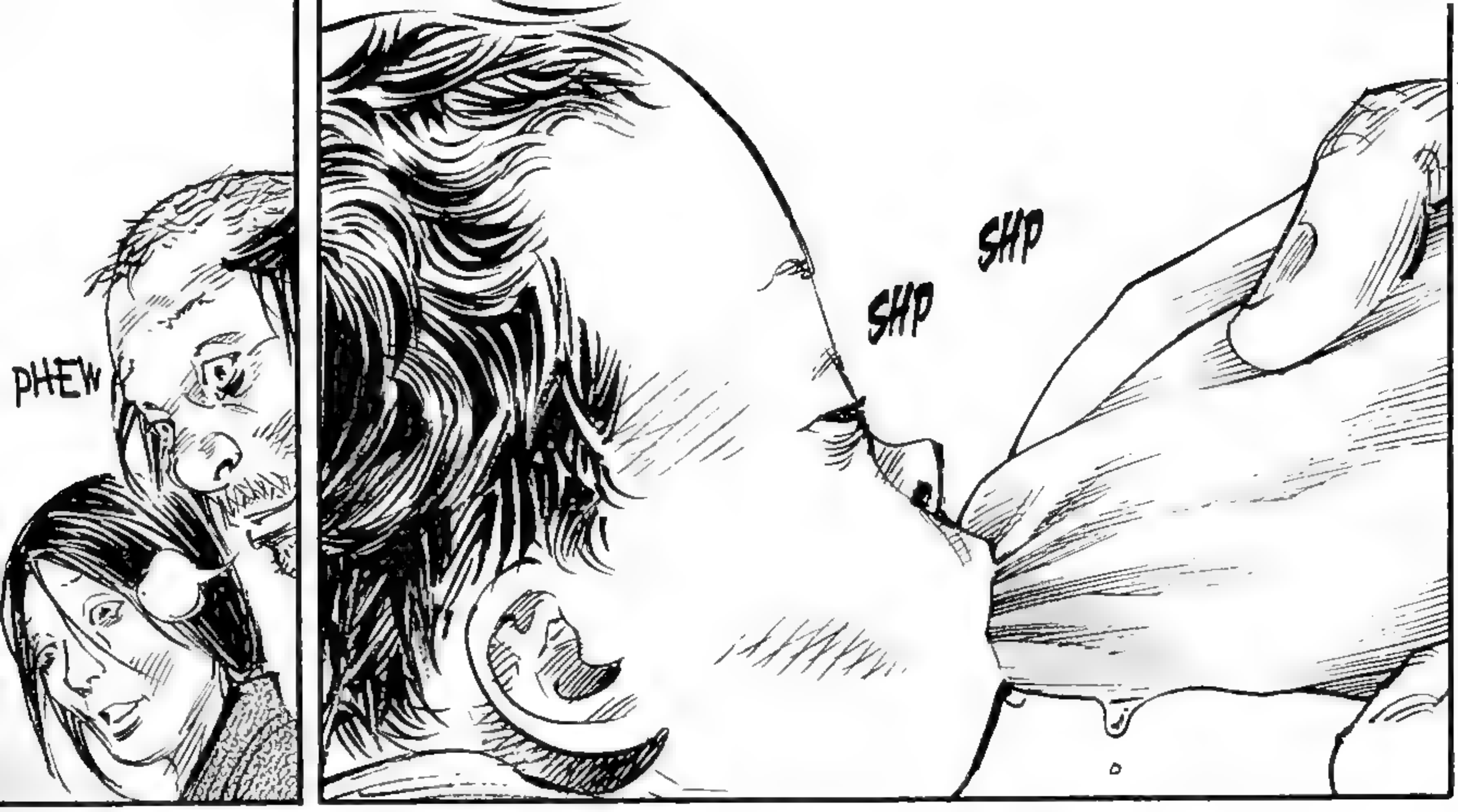

...PROVIDED SUSTENANCE...
...ACORNS AND OTHER TREE NUTS RICH IN NUTRIENTS...
WITH NO MORE WHEAT AND GRAINS...


ANYTHING EDIBLE, ANYTHING THEY COULD FIND.
...AND ROOTS.
GRASS ...
...WILD VEGE-TABLES ...
BUT ONCE THEY WERE GONE, PEOPLE HAD TO RESORT TO...

PLSH

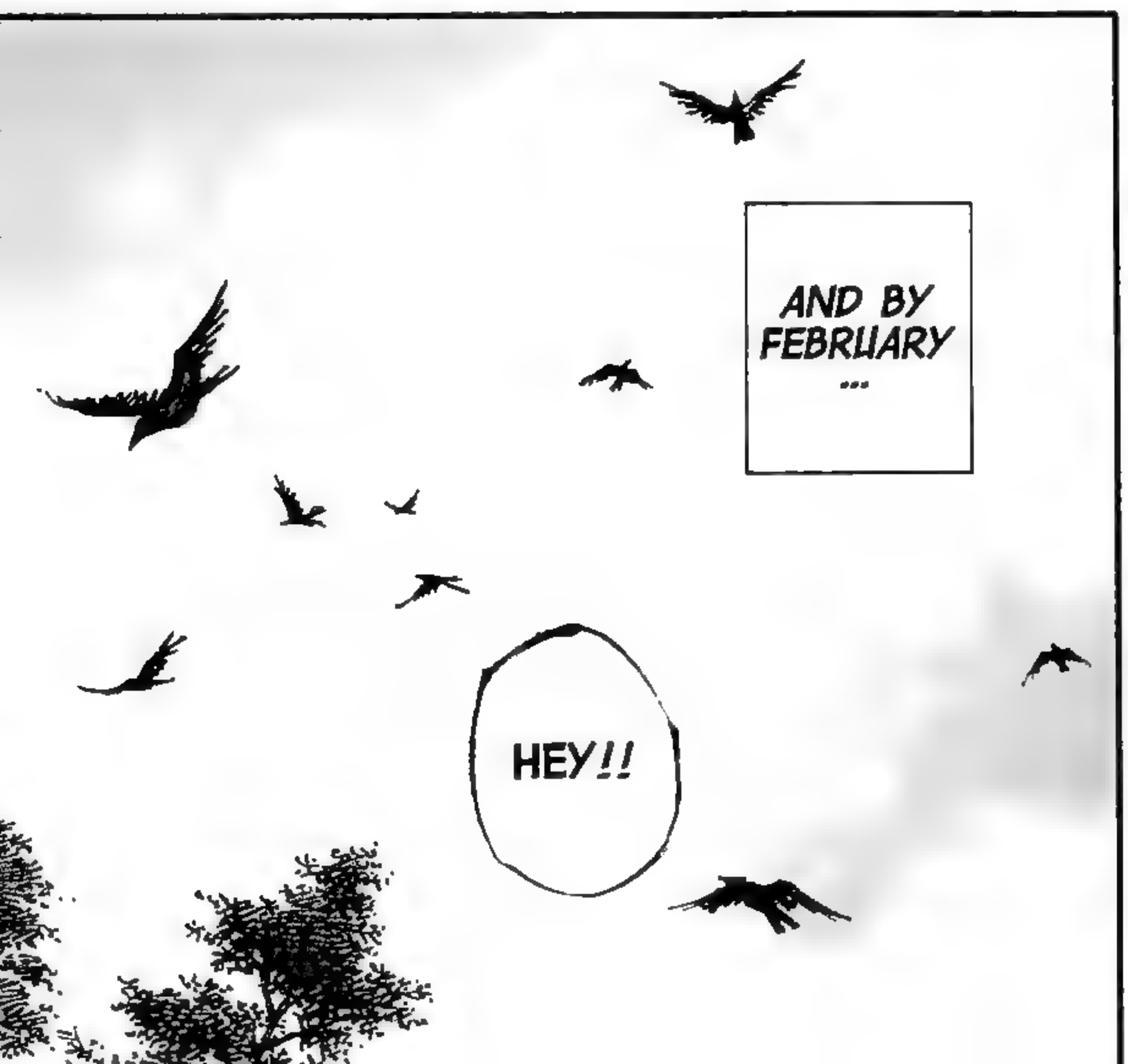
GLUG
GLUG

KNCH
KNCH

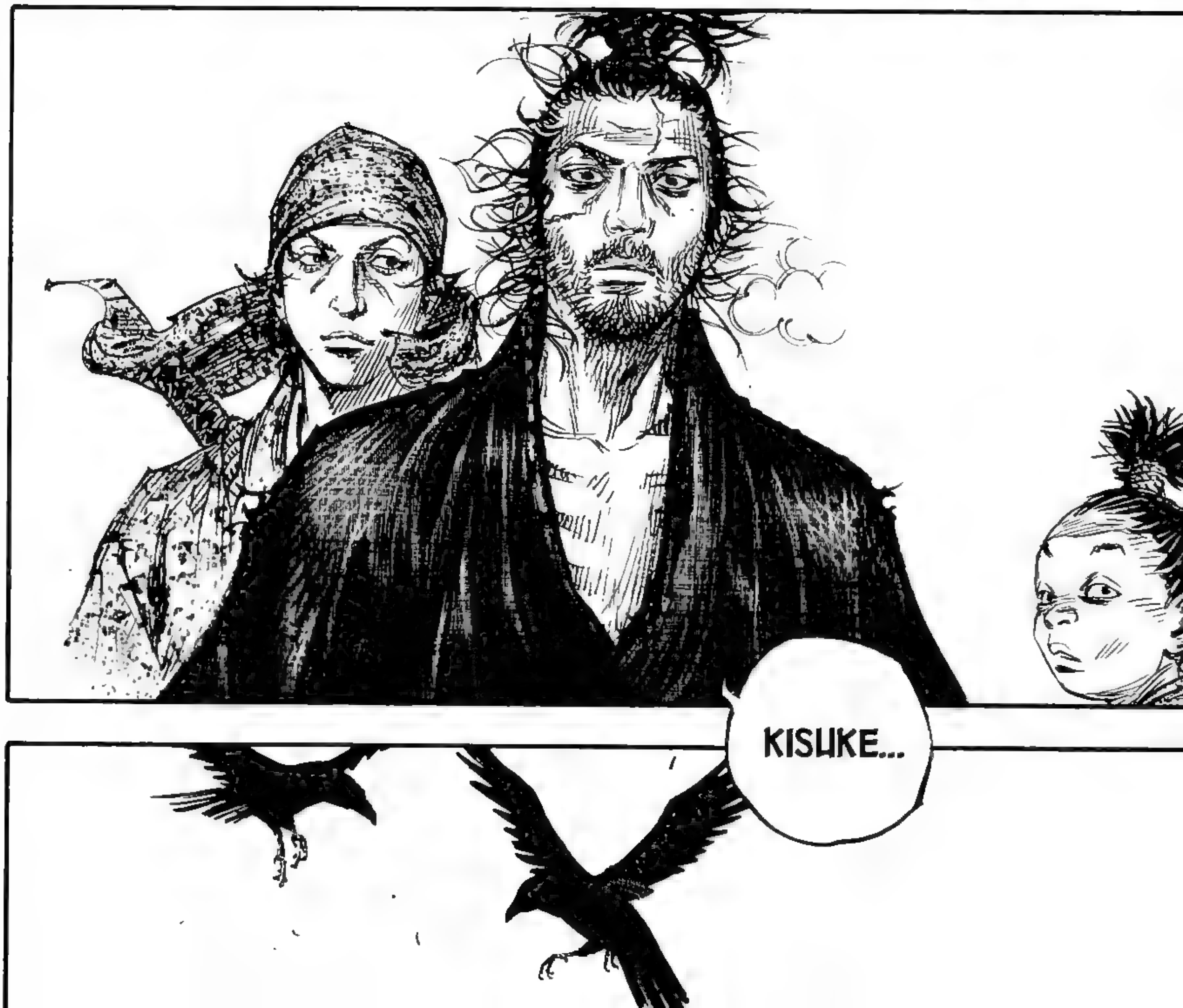

PHEW
SHP
SHP

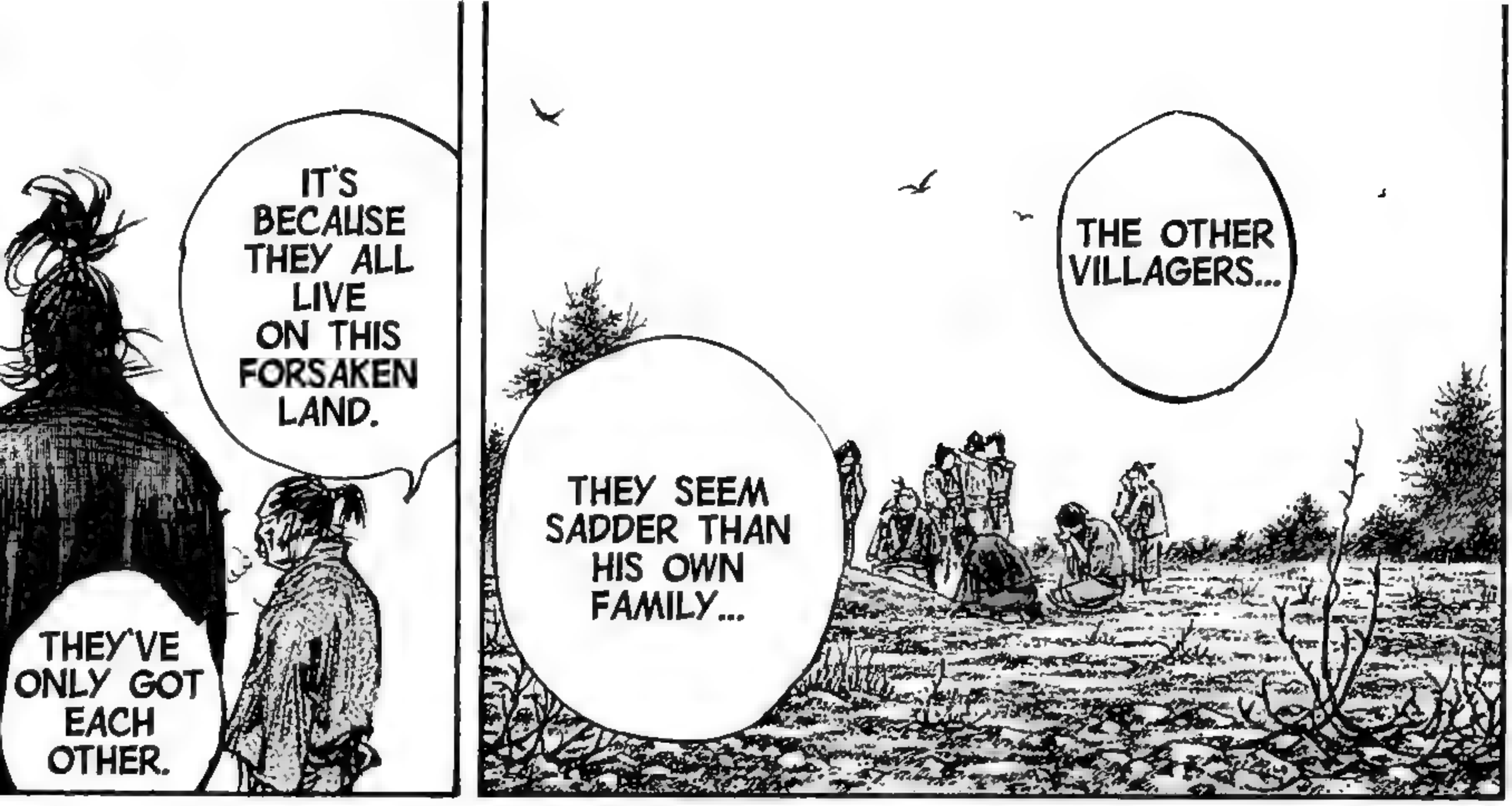
NONE LEFT...
IT'S ALL GONE.

I'LL GO FIND MORE.
SHŌZŌ, YOU HAVE TO COLLECT ACORNS.
I WILL.


AND BY FEBRUARY ...
HEY!!

WHATEVER THEY COULD FIND, THEY TRIED TO MAKE EDIBLE...
...BUT EVEN THAT BECAME SCARCE.


KISUKE...


IT'S BECAUSE THEY ALL LIVE ON THIS FORSAKEN LAND.
THEY'VE ONLY GOT EACH OTHER.
THE OTHER VILLAGERS...
THEY SEEM SADDER THAN HIS OWN FAMILY...

YOU'LL NEVER UNDER-STAND.
NOR WILL I.

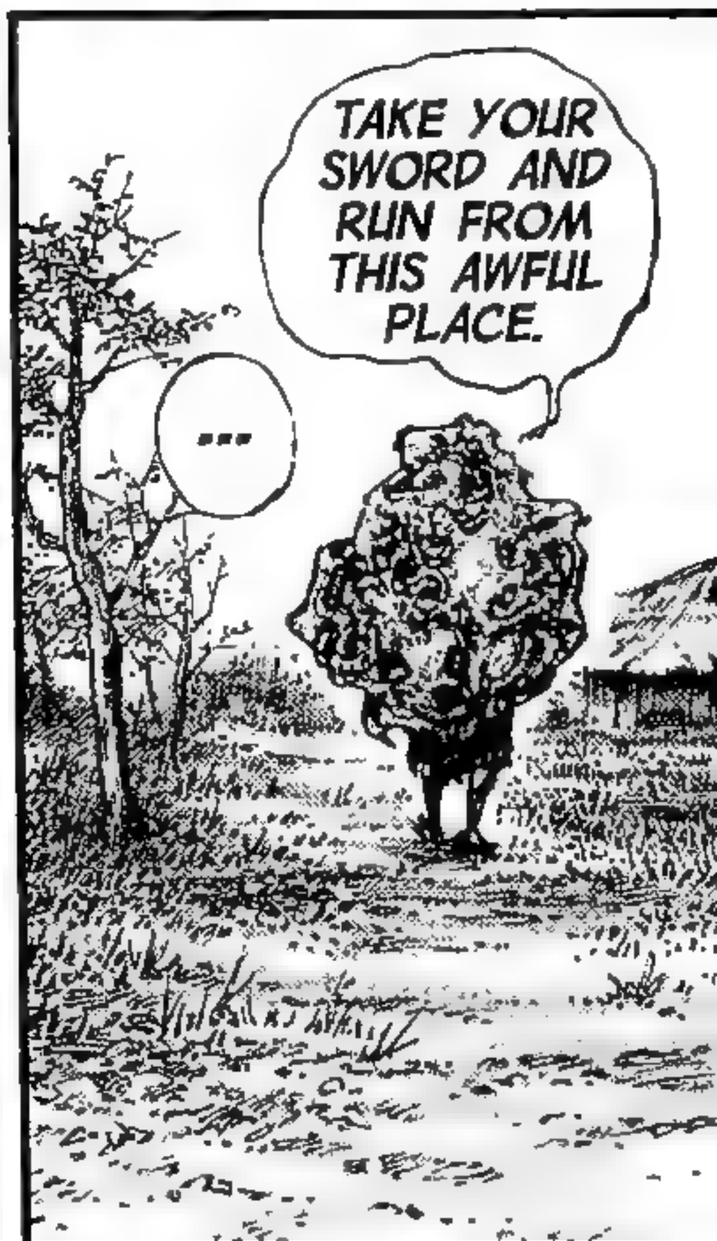
I THOUGHT THIS WAS A PLACE I JUST HAPPENED TO STUMBLE UPON.

IS THIS THE PLACE WHERE I WILL DIE?
BUT THIS...

THERE'S NO ONE HERE TO FIGHT ME.

NO WAY I'M DYING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.
I'M GOING TO DIE BY THE SWORD.

IT'S ALREADY DECIDED WHETHER I'LL LIVE OR DIE HERE...


TAKE YOUR SWORD AND RUN FROM THIS AWFUL PLACE.
...

THAT'S WHY YOU'RE FREE.

THAT'S RIGHT AND THAT'S WHY...
ALREADY DECIDED...

IORI!

FWMP

BARK FROM THE PINE.

TUNK

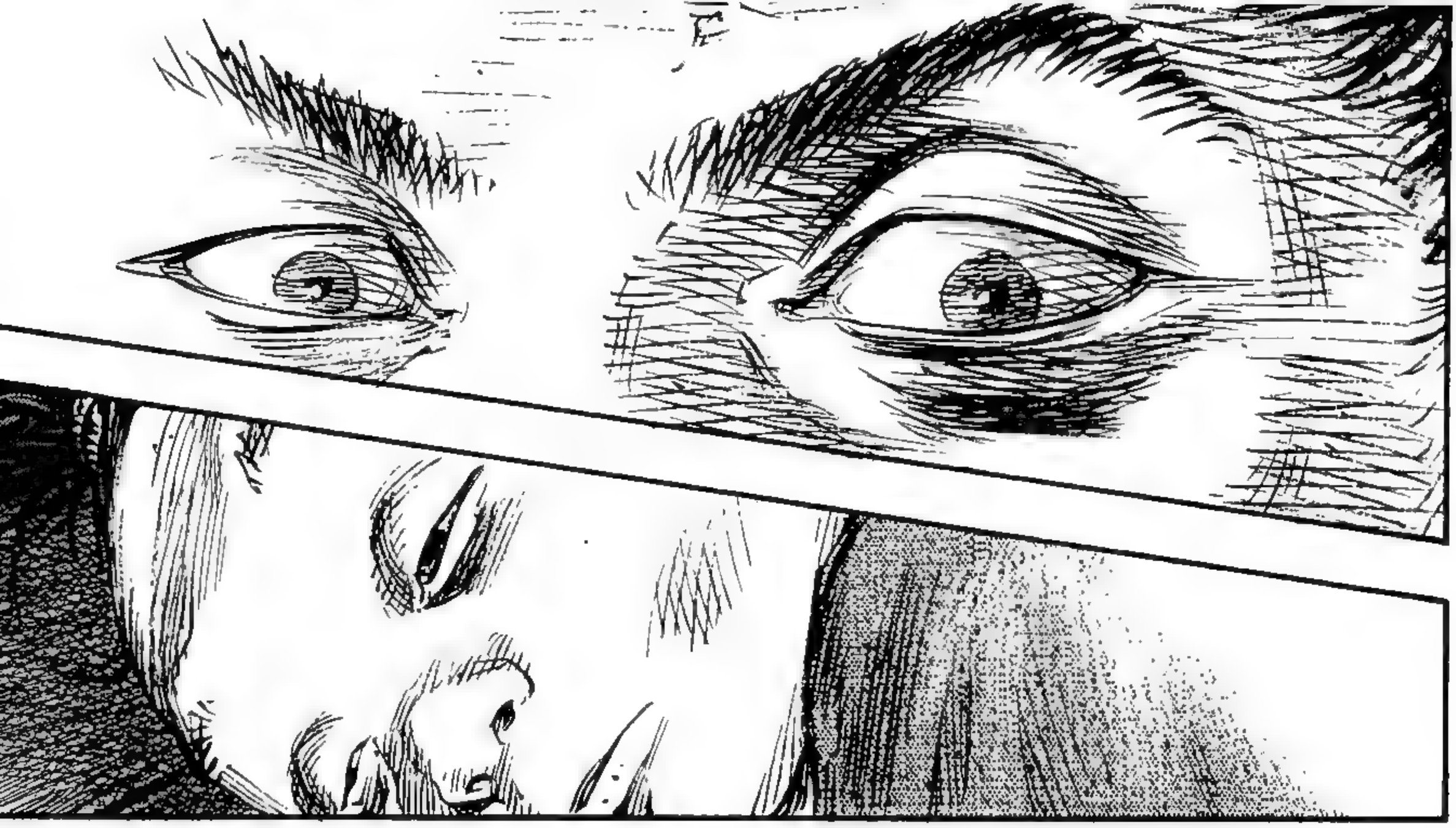
TUNK

GRIND IT DOWN...

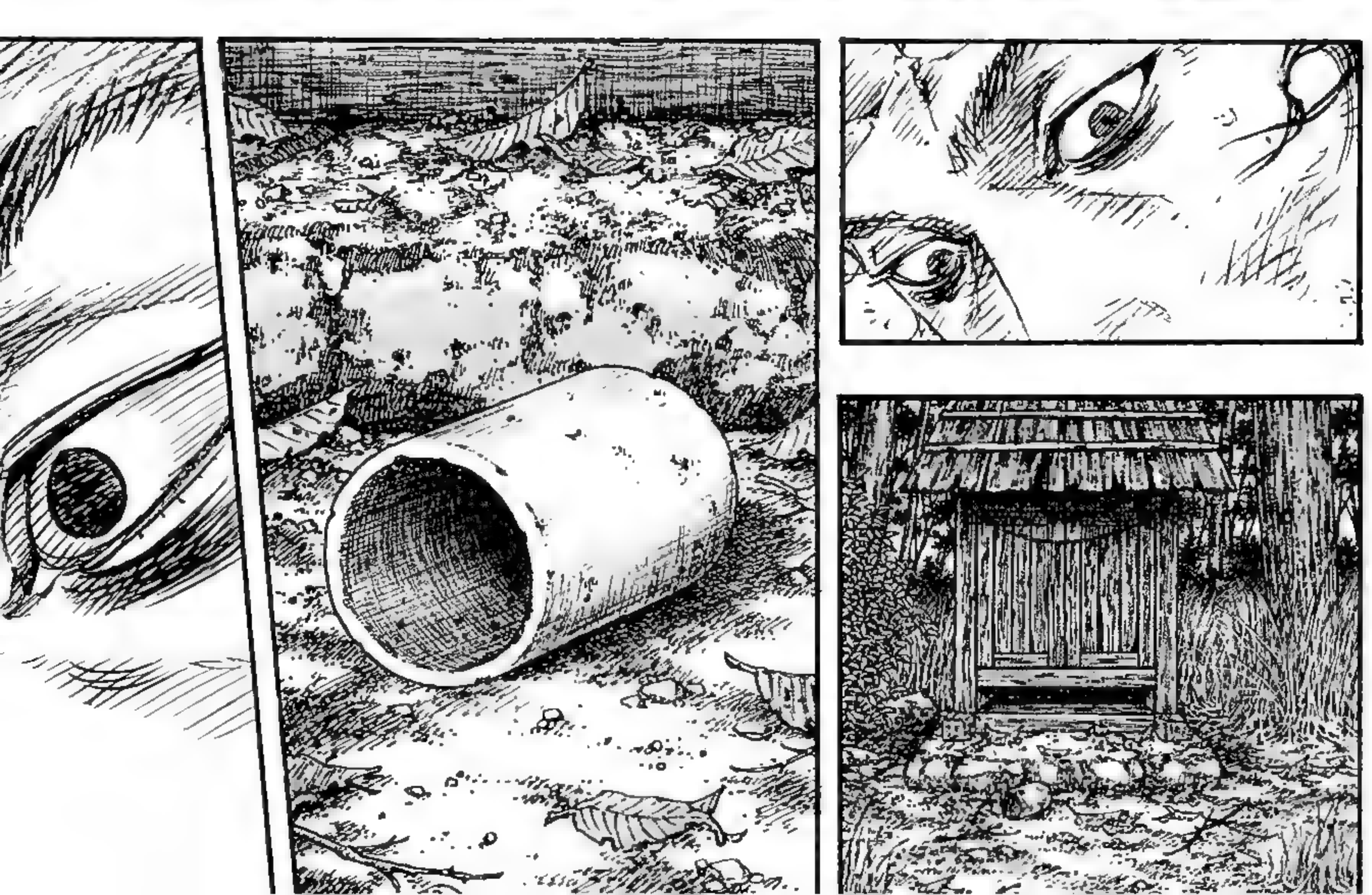
COOK IT WITH WATER.

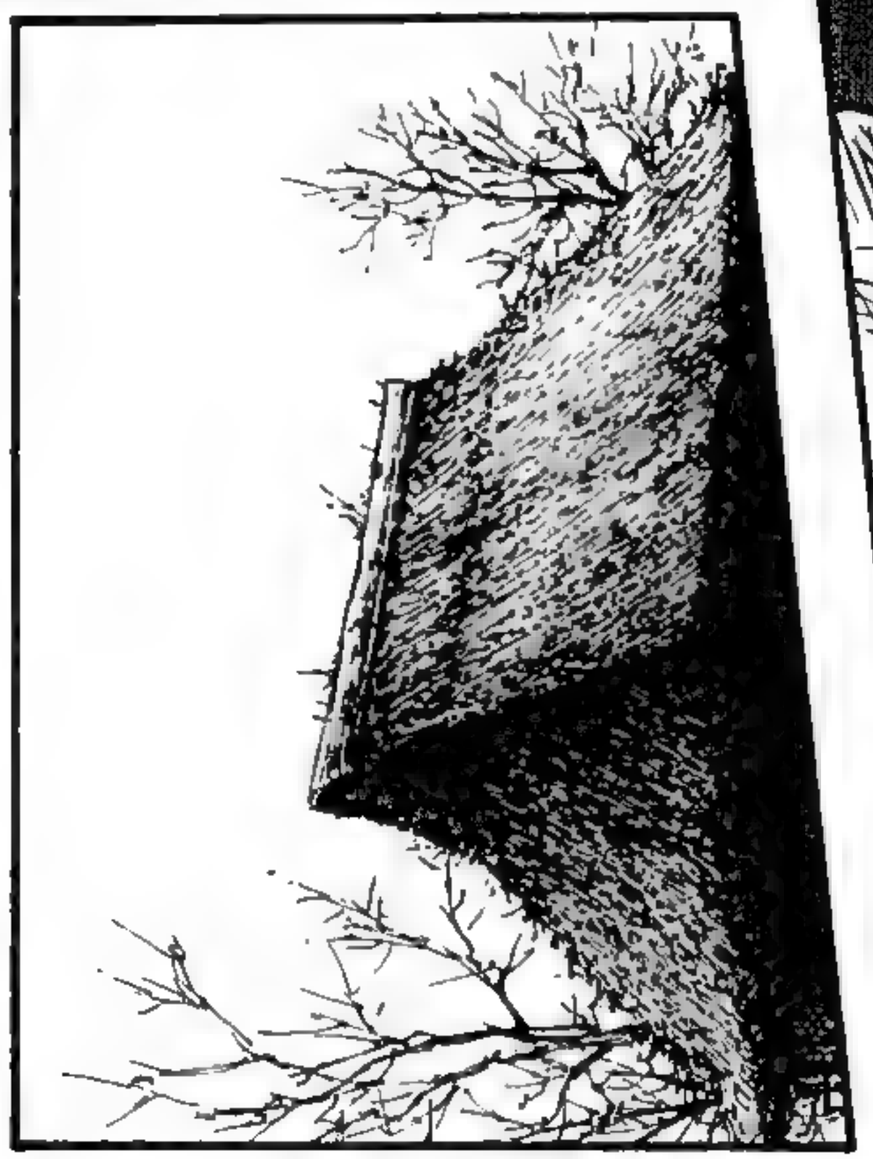
SOAK OVER-NIGHT TO LOSE THE BITTER TASTE.

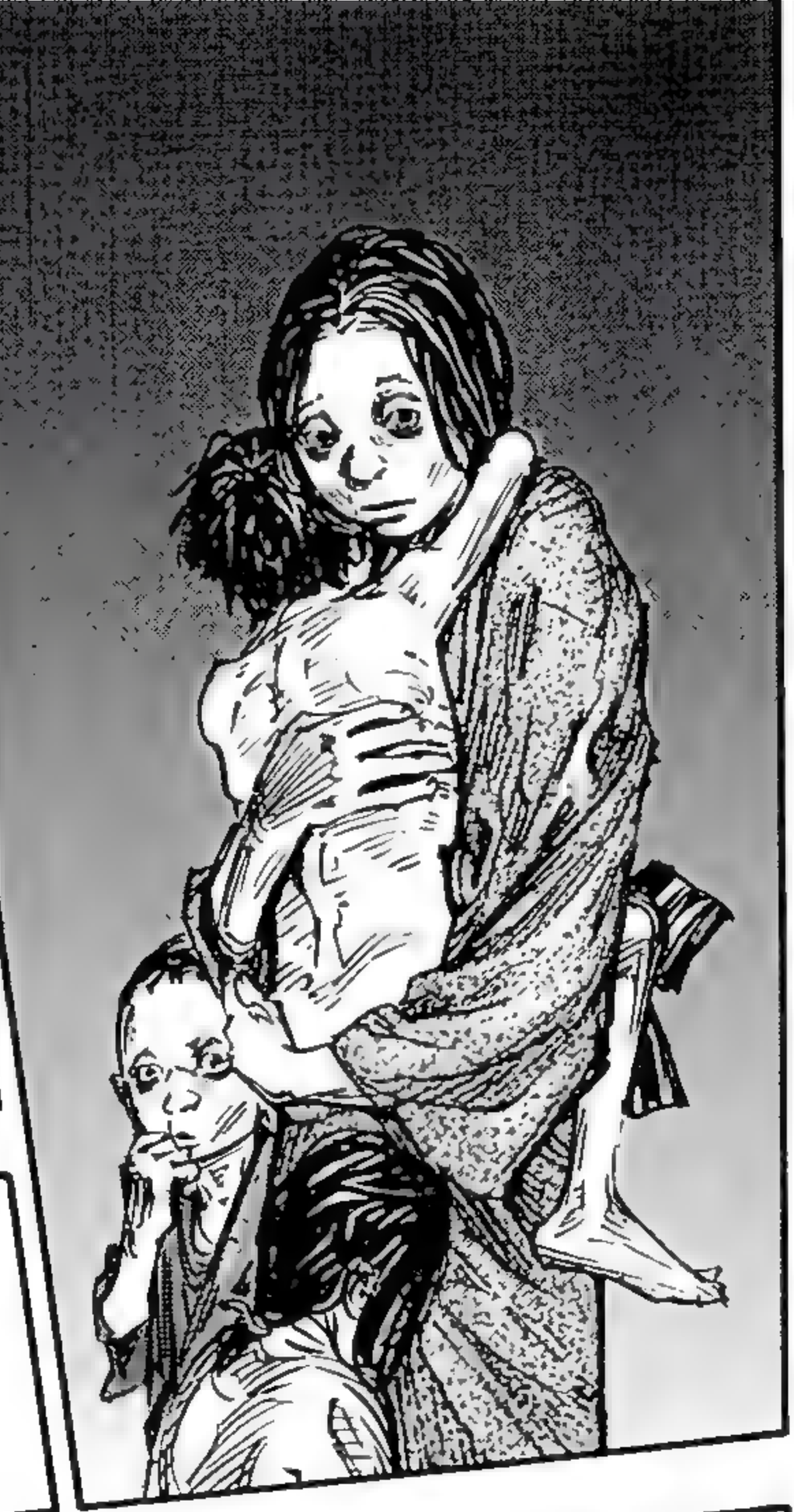
THEY SAY IT'S EDIBLE.



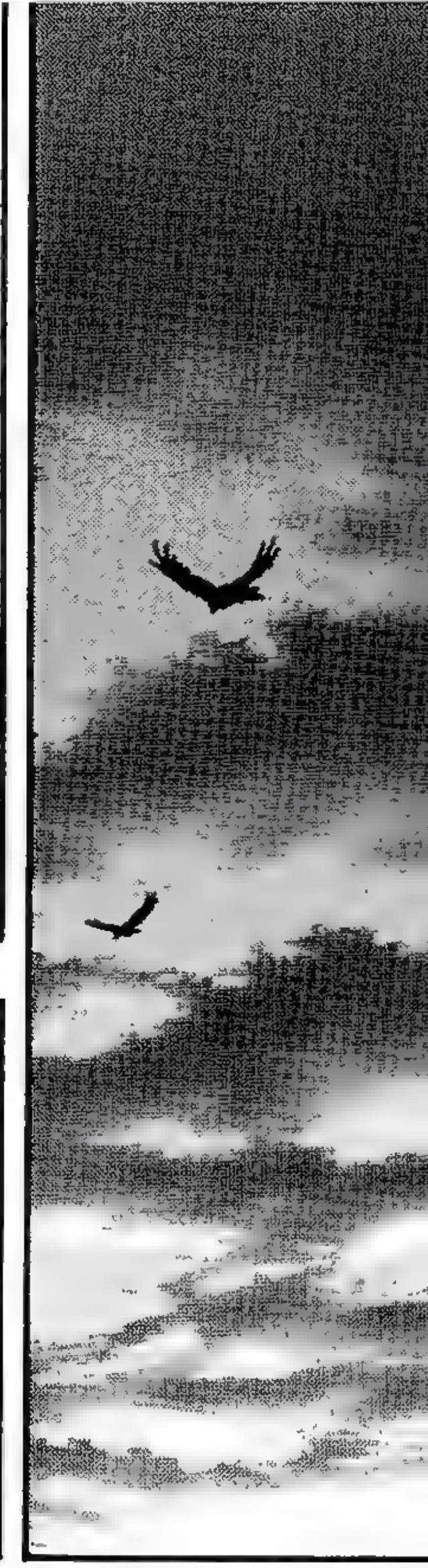
IORI!







HUF
HUF



THAT'S WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE...
...TO A GOD OF DEATH LIKE ME. HA HA!
THE VILLAGE IS DYING...

IORI!

SENSEI
...

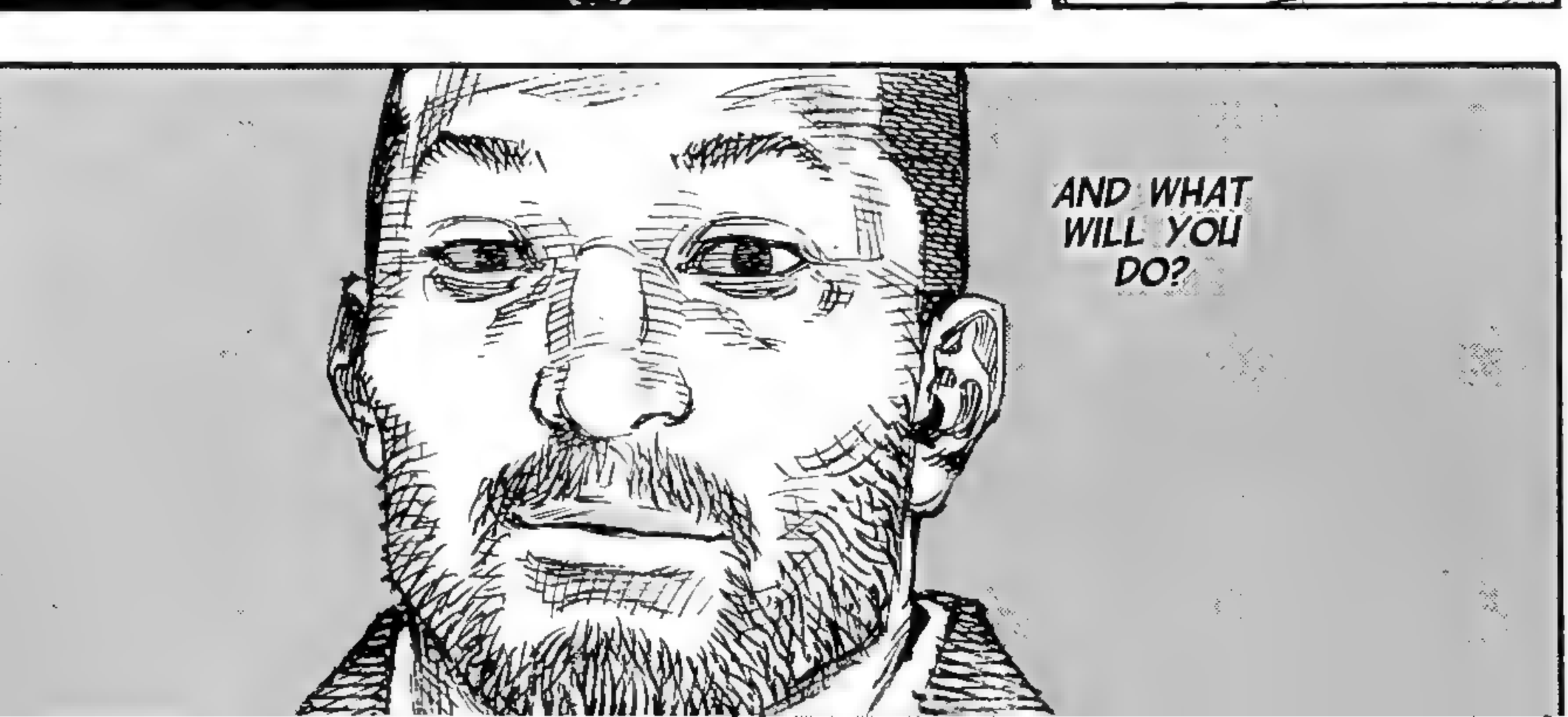
LIE DOWN WITH ME...

FICH
FICH

DEATH WILL COME.
WHENEVER IT MAY BE...

WHEREVER IT MAY BE...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

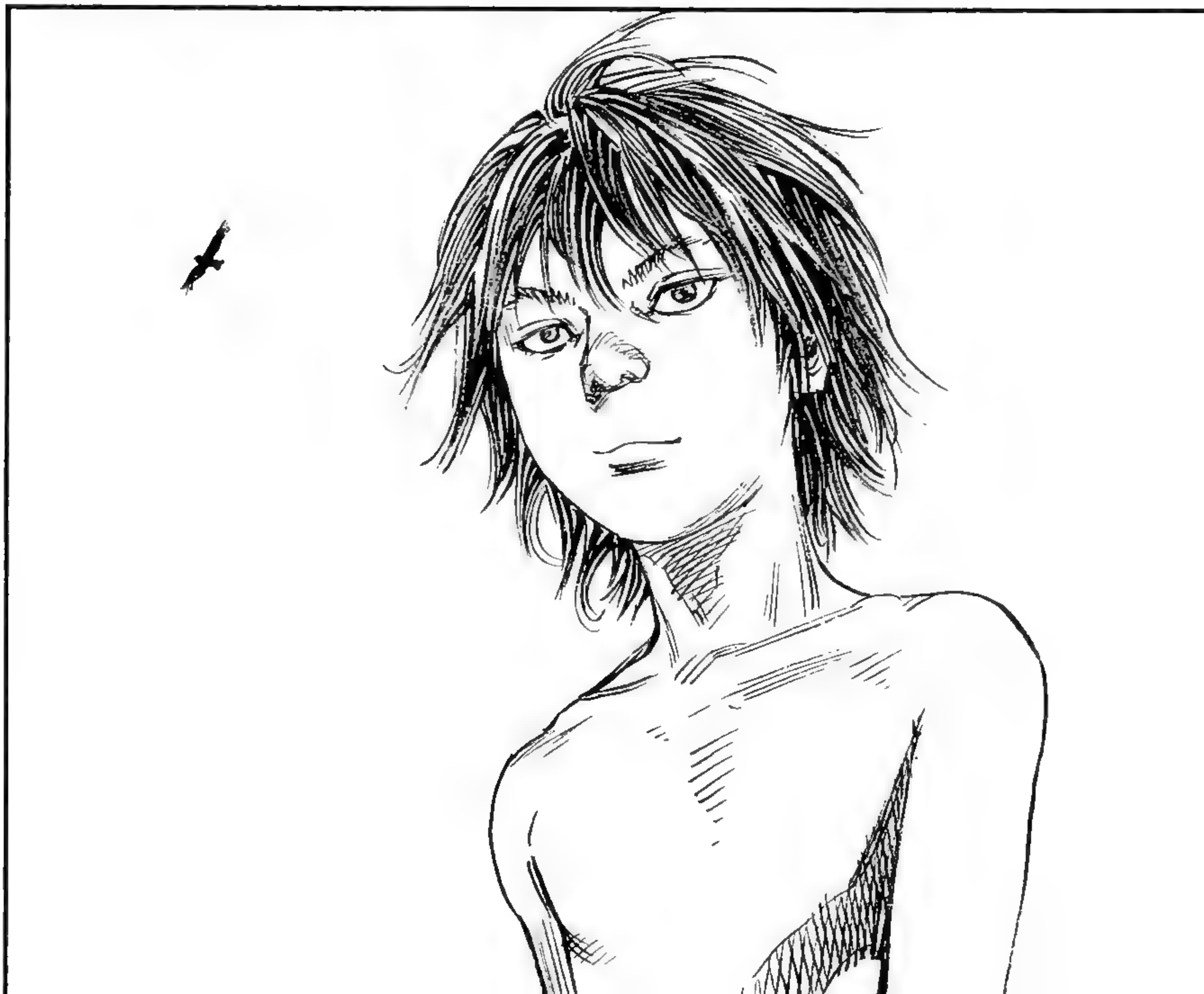
I'M FREE TO DO WHAT I WILL.
THAT'S RIGHT. STILL...
THERE'S TIME LEFT...


AND WHAT WILL YOU DO?

GOOD GOING!
LET'S GO BACK TO THE DAYS OF FIGHT-ING.
YOU CAN BE WHO YOU REALLY ARE.
ACT STRONG NO MAT-TER HOW WEAK YOU FEEL!
FICH
FICH
BE STRONG AND PROUD.
FICH
FICH
HUR-RAH!
BE STRONG ...

HUF
HUF

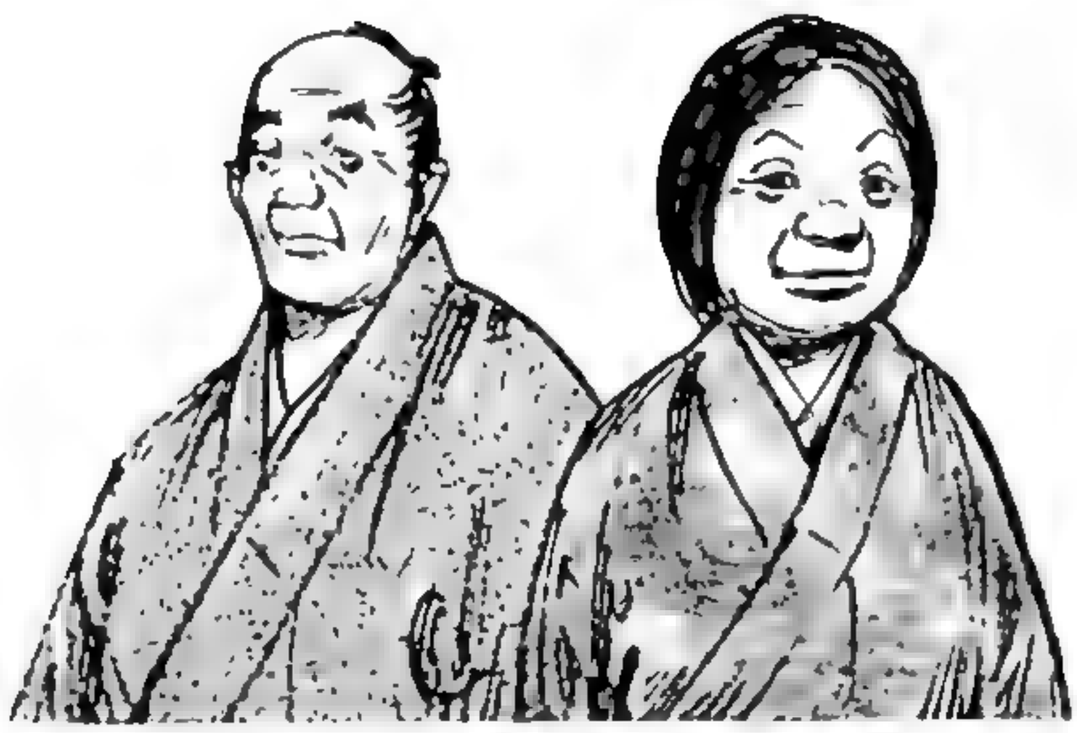
WHO I REALLY AM...

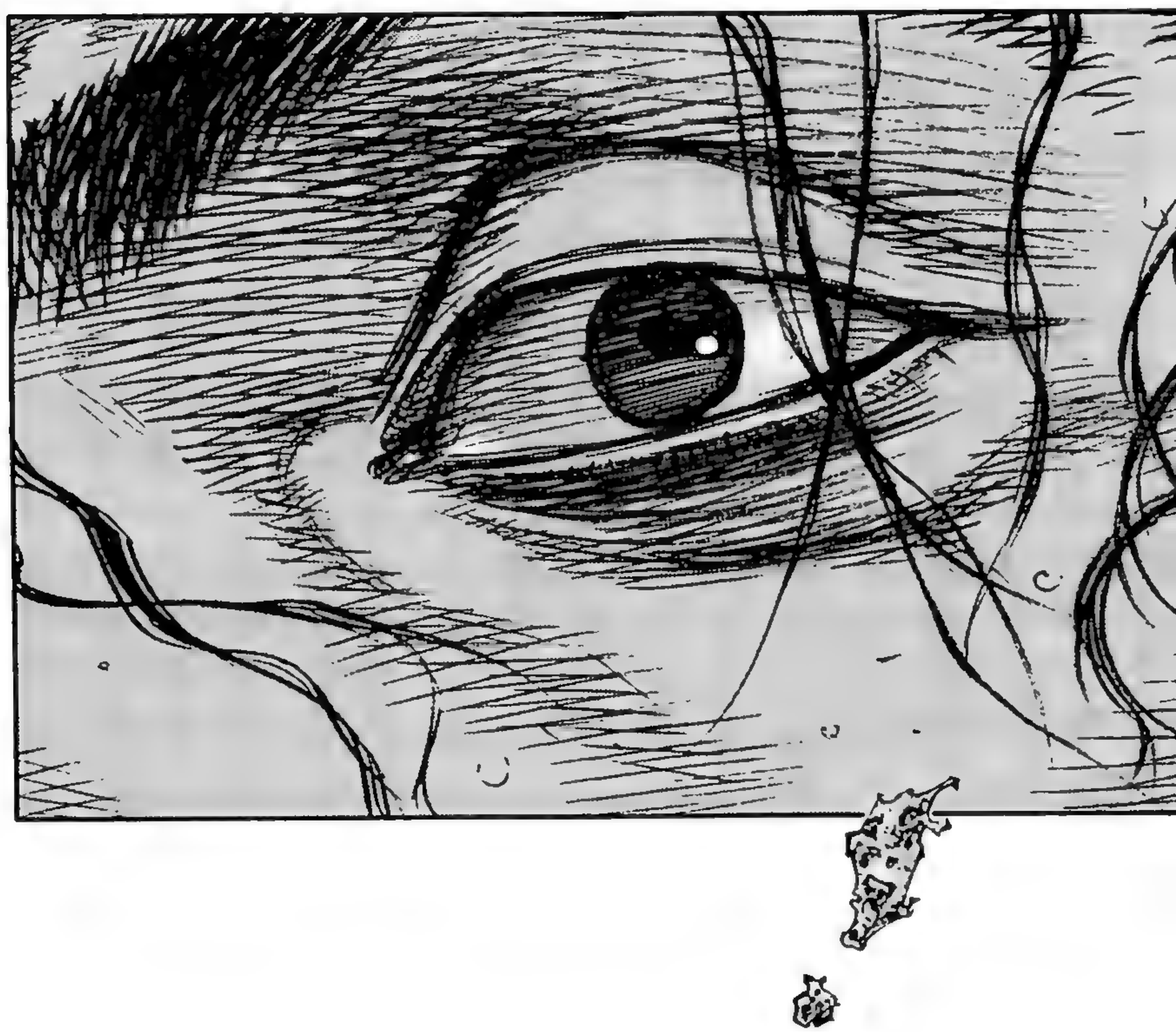


WHAT WOULD BE LEFT...

WITHOUT ARMS, WITHOUT LEGS...

YOU'RE A KIND MAN.





HEY, HOLD YOUR HEAD UP HIGH!
FICH
FICH

HAK
SENSEI...
FICH
FICH

?!

HUH?! WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!

WAIT...

MU...

MUSASHI?!

PLEASE HELP...

Vagabond

End of volume 36

Glossary and Background Information

A note on names: The names presented within the context of this manga are presented in the traditional Japanese order—surname followed by first name. "Miyamoto" is Miyamoto Musashi's last name and "Musashi" is his first name. The name of the creator of *Vagabond*, however, has been presented first name followed by last name. "Takehiko" is the author's first name and "Inoue" is his last.

A Brief Historical Overview

The *Sengoku* (warring states) period (1482-1558) in Japan was a time of chaos and conflict. Central authorities, in the form of the imperial court and the shogunate, had grown increasingly weak, and the land was effectively ruled autonomously by numerous *daimyō* (domain lords). Looking to expand their spheres of control, the *daimyō* were constantly at war with each other. One *daimyō* in particular, Oda Nobunaga, set out on a mission to unify Japan by means of conquest. Incredibly successful, he managed to control approximately one-third of Japan by the time of his assassination in 1582. One of Nobunaga's chief generals, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, became Nobunaga's successor to carry on the quest for unification. Through a process of conquest and conciliation, Hideyoshi succeeded in creating a federation amongst the *daimyō*, and by 1590 order was restored to Japan under Hideyoshi's rule. Hideyoshi's death in 1598, however, presented the question of succession. Most of the *daimyō* from the domains in the west remained loyal to the Toyotomi Clan and its five-year-old heir, Toyotomi Hideyori. Tokugawa Ieyasu, however, leading the major *daimyō* from central and eastern Japan, challenged the Toyotomi clan's leadership. The two sides clashed at the Battle of Sekigahara (1600) in Mino (located in present-day Gifu Prefecture), where the Tokugawa claimed an overwhelming victory. From that point on, the Tokugawa clan would effectively rule Japan for the next 250 years. The political stability that resulted put mass numbers of samurai out of work. Masterless samurai, known as *rōnin*, were forced to wander the land to seek out employment. This, the beginning of the Edo period (1600-1868), set the stage for many of the period dramas and *chambara* sword-fighting films that have popularized the image of the samurai to a Western audience.

Hon'ami Kōetsu (1558-1637)

Famed artist and calligrapher who cofounded an influential arts movement called the Rinpa School. Kōetsu was involved in numerous fields including tea ceremony, pottery and calligraphy. In addition, Kōetsu succeeded the line of his ancestral business of sword polishing and appraisals.

Hōzōin Spear Technique

Created by the Buddhist monk Kakuzenbō Hōin Inei (1521–1607) of Hōzōin Temple, which was a sub-temple of Kōfukuji Temple in Nara. This spear technique is typified by quick dexterous movements rather than the use of brute force.

井上雄彦

VAGABOND BY INOUE TAKEHIKO

原作 吉川英治『宮本武蔵』より

36

MORNING KC

講談社

モーニング
KC 2261

バガボンド 36 井上雄彦

原作 吉川英治『宮本武蔵』より

9784063872613

1929979005627

雑誌 42674-61

ISBN978-4-06-387261-3

C9979 ¥562E(0)

モーニングKC 講談社 定価：本体562円(税別)

VAGABOND BY INOUE TAKEHIKO